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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support the creation of a Criminal Offender Registry that will track convicted felons in the CNMI?

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FOCUS



Bret Baker's manner is all Friendly Skies but he is part of a team that serves America's top officials.

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ENVIRONMENT



A new family of legless amphibians from the time of dinosaurs is found in India.

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Adele marks a double win at the U.K.'s Brit music awards.

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Finance disburses \$272K for SHEFA scholars. **PAGE 6**

\$4.5M loss draws questions about food stamp program

By HAIDEE EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



'THOU ART DUST, AND TO DUST THOU SHALT RETURN'

Lollipops president Penelope Hofschneider receives black soot on her forehead from Fr. Nonoy Recaido after the 11:45am Mass at Kristo Rai Church yesterday. The Catholic faithful in the CNMI and the rest of the world observed Ash Wednesday yesterday, marking the beginning of the Lenten season.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

See \$4.5M on Page 4

Panel OKs removal of mandatory benefits for alien workers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A proposal to remove mandatory requirement among employers to pay 100 percent of their foreign workers' medical insurance came a step closer to reality after a House panel recommended its passage long before holding a public hearing on it yesterday. The committee also heard comments only from the Department of Labor on a bill earlier described

» **Bill on alien registration, pay cut for unpaid hospital bills heard**
» **'6,000 jobless US workers when there are 12,000 foreign workers for CW status'**

by worker groups as "inhumane." That second bill, House Bill 17-234,

requires alien registration, allows employers to directly cut up to 25 percent from foreign workers' salaries and publication of their names in newspapers to pay for past due hospital bills, and supposedly to "create" the CNMI Department of Labor through legislation.

The House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations is recommending passage of House Bill 17-147, which makes its "optional" and "volun-

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Saipan airport runway back in operation

After 17 hours of being closed, the Saipan airport's main runway is now back in operation for out-bound and inbound flights, according to Commonwealth Ports Authority acting executive director Edward Mendiola.

A U.S. Air Force statement also said that the F-16 Fighting Falcon that made an emergency landing at the airport on Tuesday was towed by Air Force personnel off the runway around 5:25am yesterday to allow airfield operations to resume.

See story on Page 2

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Local

Saipan airport runway back to full operation

» **No damage from incident; commercial flights on schedule**

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

After 17 hours of being closed down, the Saipan airport's main runway is now back in operation for outbound and inbound flights, according to Commonwealth Ports Authority acting executive director Edward Mendiola.

Mendiola confirmed yesterday that the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport's Runway 7/25 was opened at 5:25am Wednesday.

He said all assessment and repair work were completed by both CPA and the U.S. Air Force

after the latter's F-16 Fighting Falcon made an emergency landing around 11am Tuesday.

The mishap resulted in the shutdown of the airport's main runway. The F-16's lone occupant—the pilot—was unhurt and the military immediately investigated the incident. Sources earlier disclosed that hydraulic issues caused the emergency landing.

Andersen Air Force Base in Guam earlier said that the F-16 Falcon fighter, which was part of a training mission in support of COPE North 2012 and assigned to Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska, had rolled off

the end of the Saipan runway.

Later, a U.S. Air Force statement said that the aircraft was towed by U.S. Air Force personnel off the runway around 5:25am yesterday to allow airfield operations to resume.

Mendiola and other officials confirmed that the F-16 Falcon is still on the island and is being repaired by the U.S. military. Mendiola said they don't know when the repair work would be completed.

Mendiola disclosed that CPA's assessment showed no damage to the runway. He declined, however, to disclose information about the military's



ROSELYN MONROYO

The U.S. Air Force F-16 Falcon fighter aircraft comes to rest at the tip of the Saipan International Airport runway after making an emergency landing on Tuesday. The U.S. Air Force later said that the aircraft was towed from the site yesterday morning.

separate assessment and investigation of the incident.

Two flights by Asiana Airlines and Delta Air Lines were cancelled Tuesday as a result of the mishap: Flight 298 from Narita, Japan, and Flight 603 from Seoul, South Korea. An estimated 700-plus passengers were affected, not including passengers who were stranded at the airport since Tuesday afternoon.

Sources told *Saipan Tribune* that following the opening of the main runway yesterday morning, two diverted flights from Guam by Delta Air Lines were accommodated at 6:15am and 1:26pm. These were followed by other commercial flights from Korea and Japan.

'Sablan's body onboard delayed flight'

Saipan Tribune learned that the 6:15am Delta Flight 288 was carrying the remains of Sgt. George Joseph Affatica Sablan, who died on Feb. 10, 2012, after collapsing during physical training at a U.S. Army camp in Honolulu, Hawaii. His body was expected to arrive Tuesday but was delayed as a result of the runway incident.

According to Mendiola, reha-

bilitation work on the main runway continued yesterday. Based on the project's schedule, the ongoing work on Runway 7/25 will be completed on June 3, 2012.

Sexual assault victim testifies

The victim took the witness stand yesterday in the ongoing Superior Court jury trial of 38-year-old Anthony Raymond Mendiola Camacho, who allegedly tried to rape her inside a car in As Matuus last year.

The victim narrated to the court how Camacho persuaded her to bring her to a secluded old radar station in As Matuus, where he allegedly threatened to "slaughter her" before trying to rape her on Feb. 23, 2011.

The victim said that she managed to escape after she hit the suspect in the left eye with the car key.

The government's last witness yesterday was police detective Melissa Bauleung, who first interviewed the victim and brought her to the Commonwealth Health Center for examination that same night.

The trial will continue today, Thursday, at 9am.

Associate judge Kenneth Govendo is presiding over the trial. Assistant attorney general

Meantime, the airport's runway 6/24—or the taxiway—is always open to accommodate flights of mostly smaller aircraft.

Meantime, the airport's runway 6/24—or the taxiway—is always open to accommodate flights of mostly smaller aircraft.

Shelli Neal is prosecuting the case. Attorney Stephen Woodruff is counsel for Camacho.

Camacho is a convicted sex offender.

In the separate Superior Court jury trial of Nestor C. Taitano, an ex-convict accused with a co-defendant of beating and robbing a 65-year-old masseur, the prosecution and defense counsel rested their cases yesterday afternoon.

The trial will continue today, Thursday, at 8:30am. Associate judge Joseph N. Camacho is presiding.

The government called yesterday to the witness stand Taitano's cousin and co-defendant, Joshua Basaliso.

Basaliso had already pleaded guilty to assault and battery as part of a plea deal. He has yet to be sentenced.

In exchange for his truthful testimony and guilty plea, the government will recommend a sentence of three months in prison. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Manglona recuses self from retirees' suit vs Fitial, Fund

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has recused herself from presiding over a lawsuit filed by two unnamed retirees against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the NMI Retirement Fund.

In an order issued Tuesday, Manglona said she must recuse from this matter based on spousal financial interest in the NMI Fund, a party to the proceeding.

"Chief Judge Frances M. Tyd-

ingco-Gatewood of the District Court of Guam shall preside in my stead," Manglona said.

Manglona's husband is CNMI Supreme Court associate justice John A. Manglona.

Attorney Bruce Jorgensen, on behalf of two unnamed retirees, filed the lawsuit against Fitial and the Fund over alleged non-payment of their retirement benefits.

Last September, Manglona

also recused herself from handling a court action filed in federal court pertaining to the removal of the Fund's lawsuit against the CNMI government from Superior Court.

In that order, Manglona cited that because her husband is a member of the Fund, she must disqualify herself from participating in this matter. Tydingco-Gatewood also handed the removal case. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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Kite festival returns in March

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Get ready, kite lovers. Brilliant Star School will once again host the 5th Marianas Winds Kite Festival & Cultural Food Fair.

The Marianas Winds Kite Festival & Cultural Food Fair is a family-oriented festival focusing on the kites and cuisines from around the world.

This year's event is slated for March 10, from 10am to 3pm, at the American Memorial Park central ball field.

School principal Richard Sikkel said the kite contest will feature three main events.

Purchased kites will be competing for the Most Whimsical, Most Beautiful, and Largest Kite awards. Under the Hand Made category, there will be winners for Most Original, Most Beautiful, and Smallest Kite.

Both purchased and handmade kites will be competing for the Highest Flying and Longest Tail kite awards.

"Winners in each category will receive a trophy donated by Topnotch and other cool prizes," Sikkel told *Saipan Tribune*.

Those who want to enter their kites for the various contests will be required to fill out a registration form and pay a non-refundable registration fee of \$5 per kite and per category. The fee is payable in cash or check to Brilliant Star School.

The registration form can be downloaded from www.brilliantstarmontessori.org.

A single kite can be entered in all categories but can only win one award.

Competing kites should be on a minimum of 10 feet of line for a minimum flight time of 5 minutes. Fishing lines are not allowed as kite string.

Brilliant Star School will be selling at their office on Navy Hill behind the baseball field kites in various colors, shapes, and designs priced from \$8 to \$20.

"We selected this year's kites for their ease of flying. These kites should do well in all condition," said Sikkel.

Competitors are requested to check in at the kite contest booth by noon to test their kites before the start of the contests.

There will be other activities for the public to enjoy such as arts and crafts, games booths, and face painting, among others.

"Be sure to bring the whole family, a chair to sit in, and your kite/s," added Sikkel.

Early registration is encouraged and is accepted via email to principal@brilliantstar.org or fax to 323-7828. For more information, call 323-STAR (7827).

Milestone for marine monument as advisory council meets today

» Palacios: CNMI should co-manage Monument resources

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Today marks a milestone for the CNMI and the global movement to protect marine resources as the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument Advisory Council holds its initial meeting on Saipan today, three years after President Bush designated the monument on Jan. 6, 2009.

The advisory council is supposed to have five members: three from the CNMI, one from the U.S. Department of Defense, and one from the U.S. Coast Guard.

One of the three members

from the CNMI, acting Department of Lands and Natural Resources secretary Arnold Palacios, has yet to be formally appointed by the U.S. Department of Commerce but Palacios said the other members are "gracious enough" to allow him to participate in the meeting.

"My concern as DLNR secretary is to make sure that we also have a say in the co-management of the island units out there in the monument; that the CNMI government and the Commonwealth people's voice are heard, and participate in the planning and management process of the monu-

ment," Palacios told *Saipan Tribune* during yesterday's Senate panel public hearing on his appointment as DLNR secretary. Palacios, who is also DLNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife director and a former House speaker, said he's sure that the federal government will hear the concerns of the CNMI and its people "but we have to articulate [those concerns] in a very respectful manner."

"I'm sure that they will listen," he added.

Dr. John Joyner, the governor's senior policy adviser, and Benigno M. Sablan, are the two

other members to the council.

Joyner said yesterday that the two other members who will be in today's meeting are U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Paul Bushong, representing the U.S. Department of Defense, and U.S. Coast Guard's Charter Tschirgi. Bushong is the commander of the U.S. Naval Forces Marianas and Commander of Joint Region Marianas.

Joyner said today's initial meeting will have an executive session.

The advisory council, which was supposed to be formed within three months of the marine monument designation on Jan. 6, 2009, will provide advice and recommendations on the

development of management plans and management of the marine monument.

Sablan earlier said that the CNMI has yet to see any of the promised economic boom, three years after the marine monument was designated and four years since the release of a 2008 analysis saying that the monument will result in \$333 million in economic benefits in the region.

The marine monument spans over 480 miles and incorporates about 95,216 square miles within three units in the Mariana Archipelago and contains some of the nation's most unique and pristine marine environments.

Besides the two visiting members of the Marine Monument Advisory Council, also on island are officials from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Joyner said, mainly for the public scoping meetings.

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He said these officials include NOAA's Lisa Croft, Heidi Hirsh, and Eric Brauer, and US-FWS's Susan White, Laura Be-auregard, and Debra Cossel.

Palacios urged the public to attend the scoping meetings as these are designed to facilitate submission of public comments for the monument's draft management plan.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA will conduct the public scoping meetings. The first one will be held on Saipan on Friday, Feb. 24, from 6pm to 8pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Similar meetings will be held on Tinian, Rota, and Guam on different dates.

Senate panel poised to OK Palacios' nomination

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations is poised to recommend full Senate confirmation of Arnold Palacios' appointment as Department of Lands and Natural Resources secretary, after Palacios received overwhelming support during a public hearing on his nomination yesterday.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate EAGI Committee, said he trusts that Palacios will treat all the islands equally when it comes to providing DLNR services and programs.

He said Palacios continues to show his willingness to serve the public, even after retiring as DLNR Division of Fish and Wildlife director and as House speaker.

If the EAGI Committee is able to come up with its report and recommendation today,

then the full Senate may be able to act on Palacios' nomination during today's session, Cruz said.

Palacios, in a separate interview, expressed appreciation to those who showed up during a public hearing on his nomination.

"I'm comfortable the hearing went well. It's now in their hands," he told reporters.

Palacios said DLNR is reassessing its priorities, specifically its regulatory functions as well as relevance at a time when resources are limited.

"A lot of the mandates we passed were passed when resources were available. We need to prioritize our functions and activities to make it, especially the regulatory part. Those are issues we cannot ignore," he said.

Dr. John Joyner, the governor's senior policy adviser, presented Palacios to the Senate EAGI Committee.

Among those who testified



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Resident executive director of the Indigenous Affairs Office Ignacio Demapan, left, shakes hands with acting Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold Palacios after testifying in support of Palacios' nomination at a public hearing in the Senate chamber yesterday.

were former representative Benigno M. Sablan, Ignacio Cabrera, Ignacio Demapan, Jesus M. Castro, Felipe Atalig, Frank Aldan, Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar, and Richard Farrell, resident director of DLNR-Tinian.

Cruz said the committee also received letters of support for Palacios from Commonwealth Ports Authority's Edward M. Deleon Guerrero and DLNR special assistant to the secretary Marianne Concepcion-Teregoy.

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PANEL*From Page 1***“Wrong”** for employers to carry medical

CNMI Department of Labor's Alfred Pangelinan, right, addresses members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations while Labor's Barbara T. Sablan looks on during a public hearing on two labor bills yesterday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

\$4.5M*From Page 1*

DCCA knew since fiscal year 2008 when USDA did a program review that the CNMI's food stamp program "infrastructure was inadequate to implement such a comprehensive system" or EBT system.

As a result, DCCA could not use the \$4.5 million for what Faisao said was "reserved and earmarked" for the EBT system.

Just the same, Faisao said "DCCA did not fail to use the said funding."

Faisao, in responding to media inquiries on the matter, said the CNMI Nutrition Assistance Program under DCCA and American Samoa are "working on an appropriate eligibility system that would improve our delivery systems to our clients."

"This project is ongoing, and we hope would come to fruition in the near future," Faisao added.

He had asked USDA to "oblige back" the \$4.5 million to the CNMI, particularly for the EBT system project and emergency food assistance for victims of disasters. Faisao asked this even though the CNMI does not have an electronic benefit system yet in place but is still working on one.

He had also said that USDA's action to de-obligate the money contradicts Public Law 95-348, which he said allows funds made available to the CNMI under grant-in-aid by Section 502 of the Covenant to remain "available until expended."

"This means that the Northern Mariana Islands could keep the funds until expended," he said.

'Wrong'

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said yesterday that Faisao is "wrong" in his request to the U.S. Food and Nutrition Service. He was referring to Faisao's request to obligate back the \$4.5 million.

Sablan said this is because Public Law 96-597, providing the Secretary of Agriculture authority to extend Agriculture programs to the CNMI "takes precedence over the more general language in 48 USC 1841(d)(2), which says funds remain available until expended."

insurance for each alien worker they employ.

HB 17-147, authored by former representative Diego Benavente, could be acted on during the House's next session.

Rep. Ralph Demapan's (Cov-Saipan) JGO Committee said that foreign workers can now afford to pay for their own medical insurance because their minimum wage has been increased as a result of a 2007 U.S. law.

From \$3.05 an hour, the CNMI's minimum wage increased by 66 percent to \$5.05 an hour and will further increase until it reaches the federal wage floor of \$7.25 an hour.

The panel said that making medical insurance coverage for alien workers an option for employers "will also create fairness for all employees within the Commonwealth, nonresident and resident workers alike."

"The Committee finds it reasonable that House Bill 17-147 be passed by the House. The Committee further notes that the classification of nonresident workers will no longer be in existence come November 2011, as the federalization of the Commonwealth's immigration and border control takes full effect," the panel added.

Three CNMI Department of Labor officials led by Alfred Pangelinan, director of the Division of Employment Services, agreed with the JGO Committee that HB 17-147 promotes fairness and equality among all workers regardless of nationality.

Pangelinan, in commenting on both HB 17-147 and HB 17-234, said there are some 6,000 eligible U.S. workers that are currently unemployed and many of them cannot find jobs because the positions they are qualified for are either held by foreign workers or have inflated qualifications.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), for his part, said he is not proud that there are 6,000 unemployed yet qualified U.S. workers when there have been some 12,000 foreign workers being applied for a Commonwealth-only worker, or CW, status.

'Inhumane bill'

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement-NMI, reiterated yesterday that the Legislature should not pass HB 17-234 because it is "inhumane" and will eventually harm the economy.

"I also repeat my request to lawmakers that instead of making it more difficult for workers to survive, they should work on reviving the economy. A lot of employers and employees are already confused about labor and immigration matters, and this kind of bill makes matters worse," Syed told *Saipan Tribune*.

Just like HB 17-147, Rep. Froilan Tenorio's (Cov-Saipan) HB 17-234 no longer require employers to pay for their alien workers' medical expenses.

Tenorio, during yesterday's public hearing, said he introduced the bill at the request of the Fitial administration, and has yet to fully digest its contents. Tenorio was initially concerned about the bill's provisions but had a change of heart yesterday upon hearing from CNMI Labor and his colleagues in the House.

Tenorio's bill repeals both Public Law 15-108 or the Commonwealth Employment Act of 2007 and P.L. 17-1 or the Immigration Conformity Act of 2010.

Demapan said the JGO Committee is now finalizing its report on the bill and gave CNMI Labor a week to come up with an official position paper on it.

Syed said the JGO Committee should get comments not only from CNMI Labor but all other members of the public as well, including the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and workers' groups.

Richard Pierce, executive director of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said in an email that he earlier "sent a laundry list of all that's wrong" with the bill that

he fears will create a "draconian nightmare." He said even the bill's analysis anticipates legal challenges.

The Chamber has yet to officially comment on the bill.

During yesterday's public hearing, neither lawmakers nor CNMI Labor officials brought up the bill's provision that Syed and other workers said makes employers the Commonwealth Health-care Corp.'s "collection agency."

The bill allows employers to deduct up to 25 percent from their alien workers' wages and publications of their names in the newspapers for past due medical bills.

Labor's Pangelinan later said he does not want to comment yet on this provision.

Syed pointed out that the CNMI government didn't take the initiative to collect from employers over \$6.1 million in unpaid wages of alien workers, but now "forces" foreign workers to set aside 25 percent of their paycheck to pay medical bills at a time when lawmakers no longer require employers to pay for their foreign workers' medical insurance.

CHC will also be required to publish a notice in an English-language newspaper in the CNMI the name and any other necessary identification information of any person who fails for more 30 days to pay the full amount due "under any invoice issued by the [CHC]."

Alien registration

Tenorio's bill, co-authored by Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) also requires alien registration by the CNMI Department of Labor, but only if the federal government fails to do so.

Human rights advocate and former Rota teacher Wendy Doromal has been saying that alien registration is an "immigration" matter and should therefore be left with the federal government.

Under the bill, aliens who fail to register could face jail time of up to 90 days, fined up to \$500, or both.

A section-by-section analysis of the bill says it's necessary to repeal existing labor legislation and replace it with a new law because Public Law 15-108 or Commonwealth Act of 2007 was enacted to reform the guest worker program prior to federalization when it was still unclear whether any federal bill would be enacted or what it would contain.

Second, P.L. 17-1 or the Immigration Conformity Act of 2010 was enacted after federalization, primarily to take all of the immigration provisions out of the Commonwealth Code.

This law also made changes to the labor law to govern the interim period before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services promulgated its final worker rule for the transition period and while the CNMI's interim umbrella permit program was still in place.

The bill also allows the CNMI Labor secretary to set fees to recover the cost of services rendered by the department to the public.

Also present at the public hearing were CNMI Labor's Barbara T. Sablan and James Ulloa. Also in the gallery was U.S. Labor Ombudsman Pamela Brown, who was seen taking notes but did not comment on the labor bills discussed.

Among the House members present besides Demapan, Tenorio and Palacios were Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), and Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan).

Senate Vice President Jude Hofsch

Judge orders disbarment of convicted lawyer Aguilar

Zachares ordered to explain why he should not be disbarred

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has ordered former Labor and Immigration secretary Mark D. Zachares to explain why he should not be disbarred from practicing law in federal court.

In an order issued Tuesday, Manglona said that failure by Zachares to respond to her order within 30 days "may be deemed acquiescence to the imposition of reciprocal discipline."

Manglona's order came after she received a copy of



Zachares

Mr. Zachares' misconduct has resulted in serious injuries to the legal profession, to the public, and to the legal system in general and finds that the appropriate discipline is disbarment," Wiseman had said.

The Commonwealth Disciplinary Rules provide that a disbarred attorney cannot apply for readmission until five years after disbarment.

Zachares worked in the CNMI from 1994 to January 2002. He first worked as an assistant attorney general with the Office of the Attorney General and then became the secretary of the Department of Labor and Immigration.

Zachares' indictment was in connection with his work as aide to Rep. Don Young. He left Young's staff in 2005.

In April 2007, Zachares pleaded guilty at the U.S. District Court in Washington D.C. to a count of conspiracy to defraud the United States.

According to wire news, Zachares admitted engaging in official acts on Abramoff's behalf while working for Young, who was then chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

In November 2010, the court sentenced Zachares to 12 weekends in prison, four years probation, 200 hours of community service, and a \$4,000 fine.

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By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has ordered the disbarment of convicted lawyer Danilo T. Aguilar from practicing law in federal court.

In an order issued Tuesday, Manglona directed the district court's clerk to strike Aguilar's name from the roll of admitted attorneys of the District Court bar.

"Prior to any readmission to practice law before the District Court, Mr. Aguilar shall show that he has been readmitted to practice law in Guam and the CNMI, and has satisfied any and all other terms and conditions of any judgments of the Guam and

CNMI courts," Manglona said.

The district court issued an order on Sept. 16, 2010, for Aguilar to show cause why he should not be disbarred, giving him 30 days to do so.

The order came about after the district court received a copy of a judgment from the District Court of Guam showing that Aguilar had been convicted of two felonies, and a copy of an order by the Guam Supreme Court suspending him from the practice of law.

Manglona said that, on Sept. 23, 2010, Aguilar confirmed with the district court his two convictions and his summary suspension from practice in Guam. At that time, Manglona said, Aguilar did not request a show-cause hearing.

In addition, Manglona said she has received a copy of Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman's order that disbars Aguilar from the practice of law in CNMI courts and strikes his name from the CNMI Bar's roll of admitted attorneys.

Wiseman ordered Aguilar's disbarment due to his conviction in Guam of two felony counts of money laundering.

"The court believes that Mr. Aguilar's misconduct has resulted in serious injuries to the legal profession, many former clients, to the public, and to the legal system in general and finds that the appropriate discipline is disbarment," Wiseman said in his six-page order.

The U.S. government had charged Aguilar with tak-

ing \$184,947.49 in proceeds from a fraudulent Citibank cashier's check. The prosecution learned that Aguilar had responded to an email solicitation, which turned out to be part of an international Internet fraud scheme from Hong Kong that targets attorneys.

Aguilar pleaded guilty in September 2010 and was sentenced to 60 months of probation, full payment of restitution, among other terms and conditions.

Wiseman found that when Aguilar was convicted in Guam, he abandoned his law office, clients, and their files on Saipan.

The Commonwealth Disciplinary Rules provide that a disbarred attorney cannot apply for readmission until five years after his disbarment.

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Life in Motion

Finance disburses \$272K for fall 2010 SHEFA scholars

» **\$138K for fall 2011 still pending**

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Finance Department disbursed last Friday \$272,400 worth of awards to scholars of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, according to SHEFA administrator Henry Hofsneider.

The amount, which covers 187 students for the fall 2011 semester, was the second disbursement from Finance's Treasury Division since late December.

In the previous disbursement,

261 SHEFA scholars received \$473,100.

Saipan Tribune learned that SHEFA submitted five eligibility lists for fall 2011 semester, totaling \$884,200 for 528 beneficiaries. Still pending for disbursement are three eligibility lists: Nos. 3, 4, 5.

Due to poor fiscal state of the government, scholarship awards have been delayed for both SHEFA and the CNMI Scholarship Office recipients. Money for these awards come from poker fees and licenses.

Hofsneider disclosed during Tuesday's board meeting that list No. 3 comprises 50

students with pending awards totaling \$83,400. List No. 4 has 19 scholars that are awaiting their checks totaling \$36,000. List No. 5 has 11 students with \$18,100 in pending awards.

Hofsneider could not say as to when Finance will disburse these pending awards, citing the cash-flow problem of the local government.

Records obtained by *Saipan Tribune* show that the bulk of the \$884,200 that SHEFA awarded for the fall 2011 semester is for grant-in-aid scholars, totaling \$517,200. Field of study awards total \$165,000, while incentive scholar awards total \$202,000.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Members of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board listen to administrator Henry Hofsneider, left, during a meeting on Tuesday.

Hofsneider also disclosed Tuesday that for the fall 2010 semester awards, Finance released one of two award checks for two undergraduates whose

names were misspelled in their fall 2010 award checks. This leaves only one check outstanding for the semester. On Feb. 17, Treasury released \$2,000 for

one of them.

He said he will continue communicating with the Treasury Division until the final check is released and disbursed to scholars.

Fitial urges CDA to support Saipan Air

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has asked the Commonwealth Development Authority to extend its "cooperation and support" for Saipan Air, a new locally-based airline company.

CDA executive director Manuel A. Sablan told board members yesterday that he had met with the governor, who left last week for a series of meetings in the U.S. mainland, who advised him to support the new airline, which is set to launch flights this July.

"We have not received any details regarding that project but I indicated to him that we're prepared to do whatever we can

to assist in any way because that would be something that would not only provide more seats for tourism but it's something that would really impact the tourism development here," Sablan told the board.

The new airline, owned by Tan Holdings, will use two Boeing 737 aircrafts and initially focus on the key Japanese airports of Narita, Nagoya, and Osaka. Saipan Air is expected to boost arrivals by 22 percent in 2012 and by 97 percent in 2015.

Sablan said he noted to the governor that the new airline could potentially avail funding through the State Small Business Credit Initiative or SSBCI, which CDA will help admin-

ister once its application is approved by the U.S. Department of Treasury.

Meanwhile, new CDA comptroller Danny Militante attended his first Development Corporation Division meeting on Tuesday and reported to the board about the agency's fund availability and projections for fiscal year 2012.

DCD board chair Marcie M. Tomokane noted that the report shows that loan payment collection "is picking up" through the agency's debt relief program while operation costs is "declining."

The DCD board is expected to elect new officers at its next board meeting in March.

NMC's Staff Senate gets a new president

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Employees of the Northern Marianas College have elected Marie Coleman as the new president of the Staff Senate. She succeeds Lorraine T. Cabrera on the post and will serve as an honorary member of the Board of Regents.

Coleman was welcomed by board chair Juan T. Lizama when she formally took the post and participated in the regular board assembly Thursday last week.

Coleman has been working at NMC for more than a year now as an accountant at the college's finance office.

Aside from being an employee, Coleman is also an alumnae and a community member "who is deeply committed to making a positive difference at NMC" and helping in the efforts to

ensure that students and future generations have the same opportunity that she had to pursue a degree at the only local community college on island.

She told *Saipan Tribune*: "I tend to take a stakeholders' approach to looking at things instead of being just an employee of NMC."

As Staff Senate president, Coleman said it is her personal goal to maintain the trust and confidence of staff members by providing good leadership and maintaining an open and effective communication.

"I am also committed to being responsible and diligent in fulfilling the duties of my position to the best of my abilities. The staff participation in the shared governance has always been an integral and respected part of the decision-making process at NMC and I sincerely hope that it would

continue," she said.

Coleman also vowed to ensure that NMC staff members are well represented and that their concerns and recommendations will be valued and respected at all levels of the college.

Early this month, a new Faculty Senate president was also named: John Cook. He replaced Dr. John Griffin who retired from service this month. Cook will serve as president until May 2012, which is when the Faculty Senate elects officers for the 2012-2013 year. He also serves as an honorary member of the Board of Regents.

Since December 2010 Cook has served as the CNMI Archivist at the CNMI Archives located at the college's As Terlaje campus. In addition to his duties in the CNMI Archives, Cook currently teaches a course in the college's criminal justice program.

NMC has two staff classifications: faculty and non-instructional employees.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Friday, February 24, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. at the Mayor's Office Conference Room, 1st Floor, in San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption of Minutes
- II. Public Comments
- III. Executive Session
- IV. Unfinished Business
- V. New Business
 - a. Eligibility Criteria
 - Regulations
- VI. Miscellaneous Matters
- VII. Discussion of Agenda for Next Board meeting
- VIII. Adjournment

/s/ Eric C. San Nicolas
Chairman

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP12-OHS-048

SUBMISSION: MARCH 28, 2012 • TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PURCHASE, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCES FOR THE CNMI OPERATIONS CENTER AND THE CNMI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. CARL DELA CRUZ, OHS PROCUREMENT OFFICER BY E-MAIL TO ohs.delacruz@gmail.com NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MARCH 15, 2012.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT

/s/ MARVIN K. SEMAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System Board of Education, through their Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold its quarterly meeting on Monday, February 27, 2012, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Pacific Islands Club, Napu Room, San Antonio, Saipan. This meeting is open to the public; interested individuals are welcome.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
 - Welcome and Introduction
 - Presence of a Quorum
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes – December 15, 2011
 - Election of Officers
 - Results of Monitoring Activity
 - IV. New Part C Regulations – September 2011
 - V. Part C Grant Application
 - VI. PSS Early Intervention Schedule of Public Hearings – Grant Application and Policies
 - VII. Interagency Agreement – Commonwealth Health Corporation and Public School System
 - VIII. Review By-Laws
 - IX. Review Membership
 - X. Adjournment

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreters must call 237-3029. Several days notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/ Margarita Aldan
Chairwoman

/s/ Suzanne W. Lizama
Acting Coordinator, Early Intervention Program



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

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INVITATION TO BID

ITB12-GOV-040

Roof Replacement, Building A, Northern Marianas College, As-Terlaje Hill, Saipan

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, are soliciting sealed bids for the Roof Replacement, Building A, at NMC Campus located at As-Terlaje Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on February 7, 2012 at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building on Capitol Hill. A non-refundable payment of \$50.00 is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the CIP Office on Capitol Hill. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A MANDATORY one time site visit, pre-bid meeting will be held at the NMC Campus, Procurement Office Building L, on February 14, 2012. Interested companies who do not attend the mandatory pre-bid meeting will be disqualified from the bidding process. Participants are required to meet promptly at Building A at 2:00 p.m. Questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia, CIP Project Manager, CIP Office, Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 664-2408 no later than 4:00 p.m. time, February 21, 2012.

Sealed bids must be marked "ITB12-GOV-040". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, March 6, 2012. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time March 6, 2012, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than March 6, 2012 and must be received no later than March 13, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, March 14, 2012. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will open at 11:00 a.m. local time, on March 6, 2012.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) Two Hundred Fifty dollars (\$250.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Lt. Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Fund: Wilshire will just advise on DC plan, not administer it

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Although the defined contribution plan is now included in the scope of work of Wilshire Consulting Associates, it will just provide pure advice and will not administer the program, according to NMI Retirement Fund administrator Richard Villagomez yesterday.

Villagomez said that ASC Trust Corp. will remain the third-party administrator of the defined contribution program.

"ASC is still the third-party administrator. Wilshire's role will be advising the Fund on DC plan matters, not administering it," Villagomez said.

He pointed out that having a consultant is a typical setup with most DC plans as it is

merely prudent to have one, especially as the size of the DC plan grows.

The DC plan was created by Public Law 15-13 to provide an individual account retirement system for persons employed by the CNMI government. It

is a multi-employer pension plan and is the single retirement program for all new employees whose employment started on or after January 2007.

Villagomez said that because there will be no changes in the DC program's administration,

indirect costs associated with handling the program will still be charged to recover costs incurred by the Retirement Fund.

The DC plan, along with the Workers Compensation Commission and Group Health Life Insurance Program, is among

the non-defined benefit matters that the Fund still takes an active part in administering. These programs are under the auspices of the Executive Branch but parts of their administration is performed by the pension agency.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

2 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the Ladder Beach and Una Dangkulo Beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations along the Saipan coast on Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (**DEQ**)

Live fire training on Farallon de Mendenilla

The Emergency Management Office and the U.S. Naval Force Marianas Guam announced yesterday that the U.S. military would be conducting live fire releases on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla on Feb. 28, 9am-4pm; March 1, 9am-4pm; and March 2, 8am-3pm.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla Training (R7201) on a 10-nautical-mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is strongly advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF Marine CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or dial CNMI 211. (**EMO**)

Kagman High School calendar

Kagman High School will have a half-day schedule on Thursday, Feb. 23. Students will be dismissed at 12:45pm. Parents and guardian are encouraged to attend the PTSA meeting that same day, Feb. 23, at 5:30-6:30pm. For more information, call the KHS office at 237-3840. (**PR**)

SVES Annual Canary Walkathon

The Parent, Teacher, Students Association of San Vicente Elementary School will be hosting the Annual Canary Walkathon on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012, at the SVES baseball field, from 7am until noon. The public is invited to join to promote a healthier lifestyle for parents, students, and the community. PTSA members have been soliciting support for the event and welcome all donations both monetary and in-kind. For more information, call the school at (670) 237-3791/3 or 237-3761. (**PR**)

As sweet as Candyland!

TAGS, a turtle conservation non-profit group, will be hosting the Candyland Party at Godfather's Bar on Feb. 24 at 7:30pm. The group is taking inspiration from the Hasbro classic Candyland for what's sure to be the best party around! Enjoy prizes, silent auction, "crowd favorite" date auction and more as throngs of costumed merrymakers party the night away in blue, purple, and cotton candy! Five dollars gets you in the door for cheap drinks and good times. Come in costume (or not), bring cash for the auction, and prepare your liver for Candyland Saipan 2012! (**PR**)

Manta Band selling raffle tickets

The Manta Ray Band is hosting a mega raffle ticket fundraiser for its trip to the 2012 Olympics in London. The group expects to sell 3,000 raffle tickets at \$50 apiece. The grand prize is \$5,000 in cash. The raffle will be held on May 4. A ticket purchase entitles the buyer to meet and watch the band perform on May 4 with light refreshments provided. They don't need to be present to win. (**PR**)

Red Cross sets CPR/AED this Saturday

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter will be conducting the Health & Safety training at its training room on Airport Road. Its Pediatric CPR/AED will be held this Saturday, Feb. 25, from 8am to 11:30am.

Pre-registration is required at least 24-hours prior to training date. A \$70 course-fee is required to participate in these trainings. Two-year certification cards are issued at end of training. Register by calling 1-800-REDCROSS or visiting www.redcross.org/training. For more information contact the local chapter at 234-3459. (**ARC**)

Rotary to celebrate 44th birthday with softball tourney on Saturday

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan will be celebrating its 44th anniversary with a softball tournament on Saturday, Feb. 25, at 11am at the American Memorial Park softball field.

About 25 Rotarians are expected to take part in the tournament, which will also serve as the club's family social

event for the year.

Rotary secretary Laila Boyer said that participating Rotarians will be divided into two groups, Rotary Lightning and Rotary Dodgers, with nine members each team to compete in a friendly softball match.

Rotarians are encouraged to bring along their family members to join in the event and for a potluck lunch after the game.

The Rotary Club of Saipan

CHILD CARE PROGRAM OPENS FOR NEW APPLICANTS

To: All parents and/or Legal Guardians:

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Child Care Program will be doing pre-eligibility assessments for new applicants. The program will open to a maximum of 200 children or slots only. **For this opening, parents going to school, training, or working will be accommodated.** Once all slots have been taken, pre-eligibility assessments will cease and applications will no longer be provided.

Pre-eligibility assessments will be done at the following locations, date, and time.

| Location | Date | Time |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Multipurpose Hall, Saipan | Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2012 | 5:00p.m. to 7:00p.m. |
| Tinian | Wednesday, March. 7, 2012 | 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. |
| Rota | Thursday, March. 5, 2012 and Tuesday, March 6, 2012 | 1:00p.m. to 4:00p.m. 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m. |

Parents and/or legal guardians who are interested in applying for the program must go through the pre-eligibility process and will need to bring the following:

- Three (3) latest checkstubs showing the applicant's name, hours worked (at least 60 hours bi-weekly), hourly rate, and gross monthly earnings (both parents)
- Most recent 1040 tax – for the year 2010 (both parents)
- School documents (class schedule, must be full time 12 credit)
- Training schedule (must have at least 60 training hours bi-weekly)

Interested applicants must bring the above documents to be entertained for pre-eligibility.

The Child Care Program Office will accept completed applications beginning March 20, 2012 between 1:00p.m. to 4:00p.m. and the last day to submit applications will be March 29, 2012 at 4:00p.m. Completed applications along with the required documents should be forwarded to the Child Care Program Office Building No. 1347 Ascension Court Capitol Hill. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

For questions regarding the Child Care Program please call at 664-2575/2546/2587.

Requirements:

Applicant of Household

- Check stubs for the most recent three pay periods for each parent or guardian
- A copy of Identification Card for each parent or guardian (Passport, CNMI driver's license, Mayor's ID Card or entry permit)
- A copy of your most recent 1040 Tax for the year 2010 (each parent or guardian)
- Residency: The applicant or guardian must be living in the CNMI
Provide one of the following documents
 - House Rental/ Mortgage
 - Utility Receipt
 - Telephone Receipt
 - Entry Permit
- Employment verification (CCDF Form)
- Child support statement/stub
- Training/Education Verification and class schedules
- If single parent/guardian in a household provide notarized affidavit

Child/Children Household member:

- A copy of Birth Certificate for each child (Child must be a US citizen or a qualified alien, as defined in Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA))
- A copy of US Passport
- A copy of Social Security Card

Approved for distribution: /s/ Melvin L.O. Faisao
DCCA Secretary

Date: February 09, 2012

Funding from the Office of Child Care, US Department of Health and Human Services,
Administration for Children and Families

Flores seeks \$45K to pay for two judgments

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mayor Donald G. Flores has asked the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation to allocate the needed amount to allow the Saipan Mayor's Office to settle two judgments against it.

Flores wrote to delegation chair Ramon A. Tebuteb last Feb. 2 saying that the judgments are still outstanding and no payments have been made in the last four years.

These two judgments are in the amount of \$26,316.94 to Guangdong Development Co., Ltd. and \$18,794.57 to Kaylene C. Reyes. Both Guangdong and Reyes are represented by the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger.

"As these judgments are still active and payments must be made, we respectfully urge the delegation to consider appropriating an

amount to pay them," Flores said in his letter.



Flores

Meanwhile, Flores welcomed the decision of the delegation to earmark \$37,000 for the repair and maintenance of the heavy equipment owned by the Mayor's Office.

If passed, House Local Bill 17-68 will authorize the appropriation which Flores said "could not have come at a better time" given the state

of the heavy equipment at the Mayor's Office, many of which need constant repair and maintenance.

Flores told Tebuteb in the Feb. 2 letter that all of their equipment "are more than 10 years old, hand-me downs, or rebuilt from salvaged parts.

"In their condition, the appropriation of \$37,000 should help us keep the old heavy equipment going until we decide it is time to put them out of commission for good," added Flores.



IN APPRECIATION

Members of the Northern Marianas College Foundation board of directors along with Board of Regents chair Juan Lizama, third from left, and NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, second from left, present an appreciation plaque to former NMC Foundation member Yoichi Matsumura, second from right, during a recent farewell gathering held in his honor. Shown in photo from left are NMC Foundation director Dr. Allan Markoff, Hart, Lizama, Matsumura, and NMC Foundation president Ivan Quichocho.

NMC Upward Bound helps another student succeed in college

The Northern Marianas College's Upward Bound program has helped another student from the CNMI succeed in college. For 2007 Upward Bound alumnus Angelica A. Co, the program enabled her to jumpstart her college career.

"Upward Bound gave me the opportunity to take several college courses while I was still in high school," said Co. This experience not only allowed Co to gain some college experience while attending NMC; it also enabled her to complete her "general education requirements for college."

The Upward Bound program is a federally funded program under the U.S. Department of Education that primarily serves high school students from low-income families along with high school students from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree. The goal of this program is to prepare participants to enter, enroll and graduate from institutions of post secondary education.

"Upward Bound also had many resources, such as tutors and counselors, and computer labs, that guided and helped me to become a more efficient student," said Co, who recently graduated with a bachelor's of science degree in Biology from Brigham Young University in Hawaii.

In addition to tutoring, counseling, and providing a place for academic study, the program



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Angelica A. Co poses for a photo after graduating from Brigham Young University in Hawaii.

has also been providing other services including financial counseling and assistance with applying to colleges. The program also facilitates a variety of enrichment activities, such as summer programs for mathematics and science, volunteer-

ing and educational field trips.

Co added "Being surrounded by people in Upward Bound, who want you to succeed, is an uplifting environment that pushed me to do more than I thought I could. Thank you Upward Bound!"

Co is currently working at a drug development research company in Honolulu. Her future plans include pursuing a master's degree in Physician Assistance "after getting more experience in the health and research field."

"We are glad to hear that Angelica is doing very well," said Upward Bound program director Marian C. Tudela. "We would also like to congratulate her for graduating from BYU and we want to wish her the best as she pursues her dreams of becoming a physician's assistant."

For more information about the Upward Bound program, visit the Upward Bound office at the NMC As Terlaje campus or contact Marian C. Tudela at 234-5498 Ext. 1278. (NMC)



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 3rd birthday to Danielle Vicenta Attao Babauta! Wishing you lots of love, laughter, happiness, and many more blessings on your special day and always! We love you! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, and Princess.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 23, 1999

Senator wants to realign projects in CIP bill

A crucial legislation setting in motion millions of dollars in capital improvement projects in the Northern Marianas may get derailed in the Senate as members have expressed dismay on the appropriation measure that sets aside funds for certain infrastructure plan of the government. Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez said he would amend the bill passed by the House of Representatives early this month to transfer funding from various village youth center project into a road improvement project in San Vicente. "We will need to look into the measure before we pass it in the Senate" he told in an interview.

Governor OKs monetary award for workers

A bill that will provide up to \$3,000 in unpaid compensation and repatriation cost for nonresidents awaiting awarded monetary damages was signed into law by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio in another attempt to soothe angry guest workers seeking back wages and derail a federal takeover of local immigration and labor. The measure, hastily approved by the Legislature and the governor Friday, was put into motion upon recommendation of Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), chairman of the House Resources Committee, during his visit last week. A group of alien workers, mostly Chinese, Bangladeshis and Filipinos, told Young and members of the committee in a meeting that they have yet to collect unpaid back wages provided for in administrative awards.

Feb. 23, 2000

Fitial: Strengthen existing CNMI industries

With signs of new types of investment remain far from sight, the CNMI government is left without immediate choice but to retain and strengthen existing industries which have grown to be the islands' economic lifeline. House Speaker Ben Fitial said economic problems faced by the Commonwealth could have been worse sans the resilience of the garment manufacturing sector while the Asian currency crisis was crushing the islands' tourism industry. Mr. Fitial mentioned a report prepared by the U.S. General Accounting Office which bared that 85 percent of the CNMI's economic activity and 96 percent of its exports come from tourism and apparel manufacturing industries.

Employers of illegal aliens appeal to court

Two employers who were convicted of hiring illegal aliens yesterday filed an appeal before the Supreme Court. Superior Court Associate Judge Timothy Bellas sentenced Jong Choun Song to three years imprisonment, all suspended except for 60 days. He will also perform 100 hours of community service. On the charge of failure to pay wages, Song was also ordered to serve a one-year sentence. These two sentences will run concurrently.

Feb. 23, 2001

ACT speaks out for teachers

CNMI teachers were represented at the Feb. 15 meeting of the PSS Board of Education by veteran Hopwood Jr. High School teacher Ambrose Bennett, treasurer of the Association of Commonwealth Teachers, along with ACT president Sapuro Rayhand, Marianas High School representative to ACT Franklin Keiper. They spoke to the Board about the need for closer communication between the teachers, and the BOE and PSS administrators. The immediate concerns exist because a number of PSS employment policies may interfere with providing quality education to the children. ACT has been actively soliciting input since its reorganization last year with the overall goal being to assure no interruption in the delivery of first rate education for the children of the CNMI.

NMC strives to improve community partnership

In an effort to receive input from businesses, public agencies, industrial organizations, and other educational institutions, the Northern Marianas College is holding a series of Focus Group Meetings with key representatives from the private and public sectors. Feedback that will be provided by the meetings will be included in a new Community Development Plan that will detail the role of NMC in economic and professional development in the CNMI. The Community Development Plan will also help outline new programs and services that will be offered at the college. The first of three meetings will be held on Saipan at the Pacific Gardenia Hotel's Flores Gardenia-1 Conference Room beginning at 9am.

Bordallo addresses buildup at hearing on Navy funding

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo addressed the military buildup during a hearing of the House Armed Services Committee Thursday last week on the budget request for the Department of the Navy for fiscal year 2013. She asked for further clarification on the Marine Corps's planned relocation from Gen. James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus. Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations, also testified at the hearing.

Bordallo continued the dialogue with Defense on proposed modifications to the realignment of military forces in the Pacific. She addressed Amos about the issue of a live firing range complex on Guam, noting that this plan was based on expectations that 8,600 Marines would be permanently stationed on Guam.



Bordallo

Bordallo reiterated that, as the U.S. and Japan work out negotiations for a new realignment plan, they must be cautious about relying too heavily on a rotational presence of Marines. She also expressed her concern about whether the reduction in force has changed the Navy's plans for the buildup and if any requirements have changed since Defense released the Defense Strategic Review. She also questioned Greenert about the role the Navy will play in strength-

Guam gets \$1.28M for school buses, Compact impact costs

WASHINGTON D.C.—The Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs, Tony Babauta, has authorized a \$1.28 million Capital Improvement Project grant for the Government of Guam's Department of Public Works, Division of Bus Operations and \$4.14 million of Compact Impact Funding to the Guam Memorial Hospital. Both CIP and CIF funding comes from the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs fiscal year 2012 allocation.



Babauta

By letter, Babauta informed Gov. Eddie Calvo that \$1,280,000 of fiscal year 2012 CIP funding will be made available to the Government of Guam to buy eight new school buses and \$4,142,026 in CIF funds will be directed to GMH to help defray the costs of healthcare services provided to citizens of the Freely Associated States.

"Making the necessary investments to ensure students are afforded safe, dependable

ening the military's strategic posture in the Pacific.

Amos testified that it is critical to have Marines stationed on Guam to maintain a forward presence in the Asia-Pacific region. He clarified that although no plans have been finalized, the Marines will still need a live firing range to train in Guam regardless of the reduction in force.

Mabus also testified that the Administration's recently released strategic guidance will not affect construction projects on Guam that are not tied to the military buildup.

"As the United States and Japan work to finalize plans to relocate Marines from Okinawa to Guam, I continue to stress my concerns about relying on a predominately rotational force on Guam," said Bordallo. "I appreciate that the Marine Corps is taking a second look at the training requirements that will be needed on island. Our community made several recommendations for alternative site locations during discussions on the final EIS, which I hope will be taken into account. I look forward to reviewing the supplemental EIS, which will revisit the size and location of a firing range. I also appreciate that Secretary Mabus and Admiral Greenert continue to recognize Guam's strategic importance in pivoting the Navy's focus to strengthen its presence in Asia-Pacific region." (PR)



Position Vacancy Announcement

Position: Vice President/General Manager (1)

Qualifications: Must have 10 years experience managing full service 36 hole golf course, experience in developing and marketing and coordinating marketing strategies, knowledge of business management practices of golf course operation and hotel operation, assignment and projects for the golf course, maintain and grow membership and customer by promptly handling member and guest concerns and issues, ensure open communication and high visibility to members and guest by conducting daily walk through of the club, generate revenue by acting as sales manager for the entire golf club and resort, expand sales by initiating and monitoring effectiveness of monthly promotions, demand management and demand creation strategies.

Position: Executive Chef (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years experienced and training in culinary cooking and have graduated from a Culinary School, accounts for the management and supervision of kitchen staff and cooks, provides a consistently high quality of food product services to guests and customers, ensure that meals are produced, presented and served to the highest possible standards, monitors materials, supplies and equipment needs, ensure staff uphold and maintain current standards of hygiene and safety, ensure the kitchen maintains a high level of sanitary conditions in accordance with and all applicable laws, statutes, and policies, communicate with staff in order to facilitate and conduct a team approach, monitor food trend and incorporate new styles and ideas to fulfill customer demands and needs.

Position: Assistant Chef, Korean Cuisine (1)

Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years in the preparation of Korean food, will be involved in Korean menu development, inventory, ordering/purchasing, food cost control, training, personnel management such as coaching, complies to all applicable Sanitation Codes, ensure efficient, safe and sanitary food production, preparation, presentation and knowledgeable of Korean food trends with focus on quality, experience in large catering or banquet functions, excellent communication skills in Korean and Basic English to understand and follow recipe, able to communicate on all levels, including management, departmental and customer.

Position: Chef de Partie (1)

Qualifications: 7 Years of cooking experience and training, responsible for the creation of high quality dishes, able to work independently, cooks consistently and enthusiastically on a high level, helps create and cook to perfection seasonal and including a five course modern gourmet menu, small selection of signature a la carte dishes, cooks and prepares for each meal service, controls incoming goods and stores food, vegetables, fruits, staple in a perfect conditions, guest oriented and able to converse with the clients, actively attends wine and general trainings, team building events and supplier visits to learn about local product, has fun cooking, is a sociable person, likes to work as a teamwork, and respects and actively works with colleagues.

Position: Chief Cook (1)

Qualifications: Minimum of 5 years of experience and training, knowledge of standards of food preparation, serves, and observes kitchen procedures, experience in kitchen management, train kitchen staff, monitoring and assessing performance of the kitchen staff to make improvements or take corrective action, direct the preparation, seasoning, and cooking of food, determine how food should be presented and create decorative food displays, ensure timely delivery of services, estimate amounts and costs of required supplies, instruct cook and other kitchen staff in the preparation, cooking, garnishing and presentation of food, monitor sanitation practices to ensure that employees follow standards and regulations.

Position: Cook (6)

Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years of experience and training, prepares or directs preparation of foods according to prescribed menus and recipes, takes inventory of supplies on hand and orders food supplies, ingredients and other consumables on a schedule basis as determined by menu and estimated number of customers, cleans and sanitizes all food preparation equipment and ensures that it is kept in safe and operable condition, knowledge of methods, materials, and practices of volume food preparation, sanitary methods used in food preparation.

Position: Assistant Manager, Food & Beverage Department (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of working experience and training. Must have supervisory experience and training preferably in hotel and resort facilities, have experienced for all food and beverage services including banquet catering, bar/grill, dining restaurant, and outside beverage carts, must have cost control of all food and beverage outlets by helping in overseeing the purchasing of food, maintains effective inventory and shortage controls, work with the Executive Chef to develop an annual food and beverage plan and budget, ensure successful operation of special events, banquets, rentals, coordinates the delivery for all food and beverage service to the customer at the highest guest standard, supervise staff and operational during shift, ensure all of the services provided are immediate need of the customer, maintain and develop a dedicated team providing the highest quality of service and addresses all staffing issues in a fair and timely manner.

Position: Wait staff (Waiter&Waitress) (5)

Qualifications: 2 years experience and training, must have preferably worked at a hotel or tourism industry, ability to listen to and understand through spoken words and sentences, ability to arrange things or actions in a certain order or pattern, communicating with Supervisors, peers, or subordinates, handling and moving of objects, judging the qualities of things, services, or people, performing general physical activities, talking to others to convey information effectively, acting listening and service oriented.

Position: Kitchen Helper (2)

Qualifications: Must have 3 years of working experience, must be familiar with the dynamics of a professional kitchen is a plus, willingness to learn, time and space management skills, physical stamina, a friendly temperament, a desire to help out where needed and the ability to foster the creation and maintenance of a cohesive team, assist cooks, keep kitchen clean, perform a variety of food preparation task, assist with food and beverage service, receive and store supplies, sweeps and mops floors, segregates and removes trash and garbage and places, hoses out garbage container, washes pots, pans, trays by hand, scrapes food from dirty dishes and washes them by hand or place them in racks.

Position: Assistant Manager, Front Office (1)

Qualifications: Must have 2 years of experience and training in the field of hotel and golf resort operation, must be organized, neat and professional appearance, pleasant, tactful and patient, able to communicate well with a wide variety of people, committed to providing good service, enjoyed dealing with people, ability to direct and control the activities of the Front Office, Reservations, deal with customer complaints, knowledge of a second language is a plus (write, read, and speak) computer literate with knowledge of a variety of computer software applications, and superior written and oral communications skills, ability to respond properly and take a supervisory role in any hotel emergency or safety situation.

Position: Korean Concierge (1)

Qualifications: 3 years of experienced and training, must have worked in a hotel or tourism industry, communicate directly with guests, both in person and by telephone, provides information on facilities to Korean speaking guest at the golf & resort, provide information and services in Korean, must be able to offer the Korean guest in any number of special circumstances, good communication skills in Korean language is vitally important, provides all the information that the guest needs to enjoy their stay, good problem solving skills, good organizational skills, must be trained and experienced in tourism or hospitality managements, excellent customer service skills.

Position: Supervisor, Japan Sales & Marketing (2)

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years experienced and training in marketing strategy for the Japanese market, must be fluent in the Japanese language as well as to read and write, experienced contacting and selling to Corporate level executives, experienced in Sales and Marketing most especially in the Japan markets, built and managed a network of marketing and selling Hotel and Golf product

and services, possess innovative business promotional and advertising activities, strong negotiating skills, knowledgeable of the Japanese customers needs, have strong demonstrations skills, must work with management team to create sales and marketing plans that includes to identify and target Japan Markets, identify potential Japanese clients.

Position: Supervisor Pro Shop (1)

Qualifications: Must have 3 years of supervisory experienced and training, able to lead, direct and motivate the sales team in order to achieve sales objectives, identifies appropriate business targets, provides a professional and excellent level of customer service with existing and new customers, supervises scheduled shift, completes all assigned duties, supervises sales associates, ensure that all employees adhere to company policies and procedures, knowledge of principles, techniques, and objectives of marketing, manages a sales program, knowledge of hotel management and philosophy.

Position: Sales Representative, Pro shop (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of training and experienced in the field of golf operation, must maintain outstanding customer service, generating sales, merchandising, must be fully competent in selling, knowledgeable of cashiering and receipt processing, knows how to operate a computerized point of sale cash receipts, inventory management system, ensure that each customer receives, ability to work varied hours/days, including nights, weekends and holidays as needed, must recognize security risks and thefts and know how to handle or prevent such situations.

Position: Front Desk Supervisor (2)

Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years of hospitality work, must have total understanding of all hotel front office procedures, know standard of cash handling, knowledge of computerized cash register systems, reservation system, must have experience in dealing directly with the public and acquired general knowledge of basic customer service skills, experienced and trained in the field of Front Office Operation, assist the Front Office Staff in handling customers in an efficient, gracious and professional manner and maintains a friendly, cheerful and courteous demeanor at all times.

Position: Front Desk Clerk (2)

Qualifications: Must have at least 2 years experienced and training in hotel hospitality or tourism industry, must have good communication skills, professional attitude and organization, enjoy working with people, experienced in customer services, sales, ability to use a computer, handles cash, experienced in administrative skills, ensure guests billing is correct, must assist in general maintenance and inventory of Front Office supplies, be courteous and efficient with customers.

Position: Front Desk Clerk, China/Korea Market (1)

Qualifications: Assist the front desk clerks in handling Korean and Chinese guests in an efficient, gracious and professional manner, responsible for the management, organization of the Front Office and related functions pertaining to the Korean and Chinese guests, respond and display a high degree of professionalism and integrity as well as a wide variety of people, enjoys dealing with people, computer literate with knowledge of a variety of computer software applications and superior Korean/Chinese written, and oral communication skills.

Position: Executive Housekeeping (1)

Qualifications: 7 years experience and training is required, must have worked preferably at a hotel, responsible for the smooth, efficient, cost effective operation of the Housekeeping Department, inventory control, works closely with Front Desk Assistant Manager to resolve all room discrepancies, possesses good knowledge of all matters relating to the proper administration of the Housekeeping department, provides employee safety training to prevent accidents, maintains quality standards through inspection programs, follows and ensures compliance to all hotel control procedures by staff.

Position: Housekeeping (2)

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years of experience and training cleaning hotel rooms, ensure clean, orderly attractive rooms in hotels, and must have training cleaning golf facilities, prepare a list of prospective check-outs, investigates complaints regarding housekeeping service and equipment, takes corrective action, operates various mechanized cleaning equipment, responsible for disposal of trash, waste and other disposable materials, conducts inventories to ensure adequate supplies, observe precautions required to protect hotel guests' property, and report theft or found articles to supervisors.

Position: Chief Accountant (1)

Qualifications: must have bachelor's degree in public or business administration, accounting, finance or related field, supplemented by 5 years progressively responsible experience in business accounting, ability to understand, follow and confer written and oral instructions, ability to effectively supervise a staff comprised of entry and journey level professionals engaged in carrying out departmental functions, extensive knowledge of generally accepted standard accounting principles, established procedures, departmental guidelines and regulatory requirements.

Position: Accountant I (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of experienced and training, and a college graduate in the field of accounting or related field, maintain general ledger accounting system, analyze accounts and prepare account adjustment as needed, assist with fixed asset and inventory systems and record-keeping, perform a variety of complex, professional level accounting functions, maintain confidentiality of payroll and other related records, ability to prepare clear, concise and comprehensive financial, statistical and narrative reports, and perform complex financial, statistical, budgetary cost analysis and ability to perform complex accounting duties related to assigned activities.

Position: Accountant (1)

Qualifications: 5 years work experience and knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles and procedures and budgetary principles, considerate knowledge of computers and their application in financial and accounting system, ability to prepare clear financial statement, establish tables of accounts and assign entries to proper accounts, use professional judgment, ability to plan, organize and meet rigid schedules and demanding timelines and seasonal workloads.

Position: Information Technology Technician (1)

Qualification: Must have 5 years of experienced and training and a college graduate in Computer science, responsible for installing, maintaining computer hardware, software, networks, have proficient knowledge in computer hardware and software systems and programs, computer networks, network administration and network installations, computer troubleshooting, team building skills, analytical and problem solving skills, decision making skills, effective verbal, presentation and listening communication skills, effective written communication skills, computer skills including the ability to operate graphics and website development programs at a highly proficient level, good time manager.

Position: Information Technology Assistant (1)

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years of experience and training and be a college graduate of computer applications and operating systems, PC hardware and trouble shooting, repair procedures, principles and practices of computer and telephone support services, computer hardware and software applications, familiar with information technology policies and procedures, computer operations processing and procedures, communicate clearly and easily with user and vendors of varying levels of technical expertise.

Position: Project Engineer/Facility Maintenance Manager (1)

Qualifications: 10 years of experienced and training, college graduate, is responsible to ensure that all LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort facilities are maintained in the highest of standards in their operation, assists in implementation and coordination of maintenance, repair, renovations of Company owned and leased facilities, monitors contractors compliance to standards for various Company buildings, conducts initial review and evaluates bids for compliance with specifications, report building maintenance needs, respond appropriately to emergencies or urgent issues as they arise, manage and supervise and coordinates the work of the staff and the work of contractors, communicate clearly and concisely, maintain adequate inventory, preventive maintenance and repairs of equipment.

Position: Supervisor, Electrician (1)

Qualifications: Have 7 years of training and experienced, and a college graduate, must have electrical trade qualifications, complies and adheres to the Occupational Safety and Health and Standards and practices, excellent communication and team building skills, must have computer systems skills, perform electrical work as required within their capabilities, maintaining a high standard of workmanship and abide by local standards, performs skilled electrical installations, undertake modifications to plan & equipment repair electronic components of electrical equipment as required for continued operation, attend to production machinery breakdowns as required.

Position: Mechanic Engineer (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of training and experienced, must have graduate degree, is responsible for all mechanical installations maintenance programs, stress analysis, piping, process plants layout and mechanical building services, responsible in power plant engines and generators, evaluates equipment performance and operating conditions, proficient in the planning and control of work in a multi project, deadline driven environment, deep and thorough understanding of applicable regulatory requirements and industry practices, assumes accountability for the quality of mechanical engineering work.

Position: HVAC Technician (1)

Qualifications: 7 years of experience and training, must have specialized knowledge to analyze and solve complex problems, continuous concentrated mental and visual effort to plan and perform complex work, strong physical exertion, responsibility for cost control, sustained high degree of attention required to prevent damage or waste, repair replace needs necessary to maintain equipment and systems, install heating, air conditioning, refrigeration systems and related equipment for the propose of providing comfort inside facilities, maintains tools.

Position: Building Maintenance (2)

Qualifications: Must have 3 years of working experience and training, must have standard maintenance skills and the ability to apply that knowledge safely in a structured environment, skill in operating maintenance and carpentry tools and equipments, activities and decisions, requires independent actions, judgment in solving common problems, must have tolerance for exposure to unpleasant elements, be able to positively interact with fellow workers, maintains and repairs a variety of building facilities and provides service for common mechanical, electrical, and building system devices.

Position: Assistant Manager, Recreation Facility Attendant (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of experience and training in golf industry, Must be able to communicate and supervise facility attendant employees, inspect golf equipment, structures, or materials, work with the public, assist others, monitor events, coordinates the work and activities of others, develop and build teamwork, knowledge of a second language is a plus, knowledge of the golf sport and rules is a must, generally work a flex schedule, often deal with unpleasant, angry or discourteous customers, work in a group or as part of a team, provide directions to customers, make sure that the customers follow golf etiquette and rules.

Position: Supervisor, Recreation Facility Attendant (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years experienced and training and working in a golf industry, must keep things running smoothly, provide information about and the services the Company provides, keep equipment in working order, explain how to use equipment safety, provide information about rules, record details of attendance, reservations, make sure that people follow rules, communicate and supervise facility attendant employees, must be pleasant, neat in appearance, must be punctual and reliable, ability to work well with the public is very important, knowledge of the golf sport, responsible for work outcomes and results of other attendants.

Position: Operations/Marshall (1)

Qualifications: Must have training and experience in the field of golf industry, must knowledge of the rules of the golf game is a must, ensures that an adequate pace of play is maintained, makes the golf game more enjoyable for everyone, enforces rules and regulations and control golf play on the golf course, enforces etiquette related to golf course usage, golf playing equipment and its recommended use, perform duties with significant independence, establish and maintain cooperative relationships with those in the course of the work.

Position: Supervisor, Landscape (1)

Qualifications: Must have 7 years of experienced and training in the field of a golf course industry, must oversees the landscaping activities and supervises all landscaping personnel, work required judgment and initiative, planning, scheduling, organizing and directing work, training personnel, teaches and enforces safety regulations, monitors jobs both indoors and outdoors to ensure quality and compliance with job standards, performs duties of a landscaper, continuous concentrated mental and visual effort

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Trim overhead and match postal reforms to financial reality

Overdue financial reforms for the U.S. Postal Service should be a priority delivery. They should not include new sources of revenue that directly compete with existing businesses.

Congress is wrestling with how to staunch the losses at the Postal Service without dramatic changes. It is wishful thinking in the face of plunging mail volumes, stunning employee overhead and yet another quarterly loss, this one at \$3.3 billion.

Postmaster General Patrick Donahue is proposing a five-year cost-cutting plan that has lawmakers from rural districts in a panic. The ideas represent a no-nonsense effort to save more than \$6 billion a year by closing 252 mail-processing centers and 3,700 post offices. More than 100,000 jobs would be lost.

Included in Donahue's proposal, which was restated last week in a letter to Congress, is an end to Saturday service, slower delivery and a nickel increase in postage to 50 cents for a first-class stamp.

A five-day delivery schedule might be more shocking if America's reliance on the mail system had not been so thoroughly swamped by the Internet in recent years.

Congress is of two minds, and the stalling is costing a bundle. Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., has Senate Bill 1789, which follows the closure template, but is considered an improvement. Bipartisan resistance is growing. In part the protests are over first-class service bumping down to three-day delivery. At the core, however, are rural jobs and the cultural role of local post offices.

Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., has HR 2309, which also promotes five-day delivery, and would gradually eliminate discounts for nonprofits and their direct-mail campaigns. He has resisted a key change that others argue could make the Postal Service marginally profitable: changes to employee benefits systems.

The postmaster general and others want to eliminate annual \$5.5 billion prepayments to retiree health-benefit plans. They also want access to a nearly \$7 billion overpayment to the federal pension system.

Some basic changes need to be made, and other ideas avoided. Postal subsidies for advertising make life difficult for private competitors. Do not compound the financial insult. Deliver the mail and get out of the advertising business. One wacky proposal is to put ads on mail-delivery trucks.

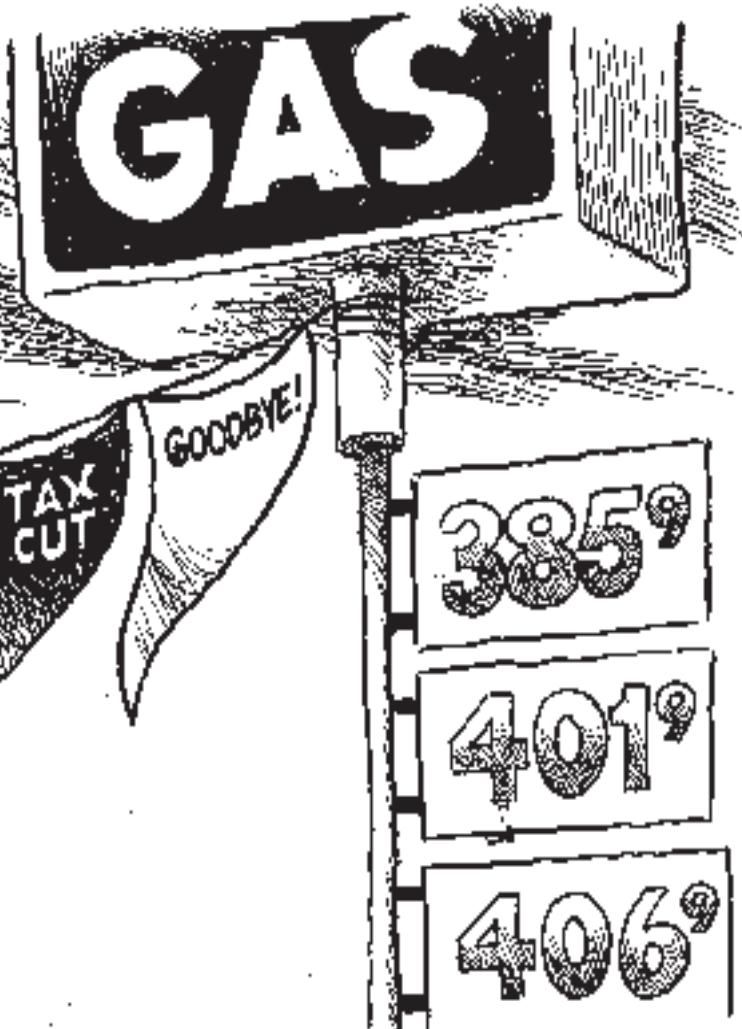
The Postal Service does not need to go into the wine and spirits delivery business. Others have that covered. Other desperate proposals would have the Postal Service collaborating with local and state government to take on tasks like selling fishing and hunting licenses.

Stay focused on mail delivery. Make postmarks count, so bill payers do not suffer late fees with slow delivery. In that same spirit, do not compromise mail ballots with tardy delivery. Again, make postmarks count.

The first savings is ending the massive prepayments on future health benefits, then making sure the mail is delivered. The combination yields predictions of profitability.

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Why Arizona banned ethnic studies

It's more than a little ironic that the same Arizona legislature that spearheaded a ruthless, racially charged campaign against illegal immigrants also banned K-12 ethnic studies classes on the grounds that they promote hatred and division. Who knew Arizona's Republican majority, as expert as it is at hyperbole and invective, was so committed to fostering healthy race relations in the Grand Canyon State?

Last month, after a court fight against the ban, the governing board of the Tucson Unified School District pulled the plug on its Mexican-American studies program, which teachers say was designed to help middle school and high school students navigate in a complex, multiethnic world.

I've never been much of a fan of ethnic studies, mostly because I think the politicized curriculum often lacks rigor and tends to be crammed with early 1970s "victim rhetoric" that can narrow students' sense of possibilities rather than broaden them. Having 15-year-olds read Paulo Freire's jargon-heavy Marxist "Pedagogy of the Oppressed" is a bit much (it was on the syllabus). But I'm all for students being taught that their ethnic histories play a significant role in U.S. history.

In any case, to characterize Tucson's program as anti-American or hate-mongering is pretty far-fetched, particularly given the animosity that's been stoked in the last few years by the likes of Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio and the recently recalled state Senate President Russell Pearce.

Both the ban's author, state Attorney General Tom Horne, and its biggest supporter, Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal, touted their opposition to ethnic studies and their "tough on Mexicans" credentials in their bids for statewide office in 2010. In one particularly baldfaced radio ad paid for by Huppenthal's campaign, the announcer declares the candidate to be "one of us." He goes on to say that Huppenthal voted to end bilingual education and this time will "stop La Raza." The announcer gives no explanation of what exactly "stop La Raza" might mean.

Arizona's ethnic studies ban targets classes that "promote the overthrow of the U.S. government" or "resentment toward a race or class of people." Since nobody has uncovered a single teacher instructing students to overthrow so much as a hall monitor, it's safe to assume that what's really irking the ban's supporters is the part about resentment. And resentment toward whom? Well, white people.

Yes, the fellow who pledged to "stop La Raza" has succeeded in keeping a cadre of roughly 25 teachers in Tucson from suggesting that Anglos have been something other than always honorable in their treatment of minorities in U.S. history. Put bluntly, Arizona banned ethnic studies to protect the reputation of the white majority. It's true that teaching U.S. history and literature with an eye

By GREGORY RODRIGUEZ

Los Angeles Times

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toward a minority experience can give students misgivings about the wisdom of the majority, past and present. But particularly in the Southwest, it's impossible to understand history without acknowledging the subjugation and marginalization of minority groups. Nor can one understand the greatness of the American experiment without seeing it as a 200-year-long struggle to overcome injustices and live up to the highest ideals of its founding documents. Surely one doesn't have to believe in the infallibility of white people to be pro-American. Besides, if teaching U.S. history means protecting the reputation of the majority by telling the story strictly from their perspective, wouldn't that be a type of ethnic studies?

I was pondering this question last week while walking the halls of the world-renowned Native American collection at the Heard Museum in Phoenix. A new exhibition, "Beyond Geronimo: The Apache Experience," includes the story of the Chiricahua band of Apache Indians, who were forced off their lands in Arizona in the 1870s and held by the government as prisoners of war from 1886 to 1913.

Even more moving, however, was an exhibition about Indian boarding schools in the late 19th century. It documents with first-person immediacy the federal government's late-19th century policy of forced assimilation, in which Indian children were removed from their homes to be transformed into Americans in the mold of Anglo Protestants. School officials began by cutting off the children's long hair, and they drilled them in a curriculum that did all it could to destroy native language and culture.

Over the last century, things have improved, and the majority has learned there is more than one way to be American and that whites are not the de facto standard-bearers of true patriotism. So you would think that Arizonans would know better. They wouldn't pass laws telling Mexican American children that they're not "one of us" but nonetheless had better think and act like "we do."

The banishment of Tucson's Mexican American studies program suggests otherwise. Whatever its faults, the program was not anywhere as dangerous as a white majority that simultaneously fights to protect its power and the purity of its reputation.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Preventing cancer

Although books have been written about all the ways cancer can be prevented, for the average person the amount of information is overwhelming. The advice is correct, but there is just too much of it.

If a person is serious about preventing cancer for themselves and their family members, it's a whole lot easier to do a few things gradually.

Here are four suggestions for you to consider. If you are able to do any or all of them, you will cut your risk of getting cancer significantly.

First, try to avoid anything with added sugar. Sugar will depress your immune system and make your body more accommodating to disease. For example, if you eliminate cola and drink water instead, you are doing something good for yourself. If you are at one of the lovely buffets, skip the ice cream and eat fresh fruit. Yes, there is some sugar in fruit, but it is far less harmful than processed, refined sugar.

Second, try to avoid any canned meat (you probably know what I am referring to). Most processed meats are loaded with chemicals, and your body doesn't need them. Buy fresh meat such as chicken or fish instead.

Third, take vitamin C, 2,000mg per day—or, 1,000mg twice a day. Most people do not get enough of this health giving vitamin, and it has excellent anti-cancer properties.

Fourth, if you think you may be at risk for cancer, then eat eight fresh raw apricot seeds (also called kernels) every day. They contain amigdalyn, one of the most effective anti-cancer compounds in the world. They can be ordered online at RainrockNutritionals.com (660 apricot seeds will cost \$20 and are worth every cent).

There is more you can do, but these four things will help reduce your risk significantly. In the next installment, I will add four more suggestions to the list.

The politics of cancer

People tend to be gullible when it comes to public information about health, nutrition, doctors, and pharmaceuticals. That is, they believe the guff when a big pharmaceutical company says, "We're working on a cure for cancer."

No they're not. They are lying to you.

Cancer has been cured many times, by various physicians and scientists over the years, and you never heard of them. Why? Because the AMA, FDA, and "Big Pharma" made sure you didn't. A

Israel's risky option on Iran

Talk of a military strike on Iranian nuclear facilities is not subsiding. If diplomacy can't head off Iran's nuclear ambitions, advocates for a military strike in Israel and the United States will only gain strength. While proponents may believe that Israel can endure the short-term military and diplomatic fallout of such action, the long-term consequences are likely to be disastrous for Israel's security.

Those believed to favor a military option, such as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Ehud Barak, argue that the Middle East with a nuclear-armed Iran would be far more dangerous than a military attack to prevent it. But their position rests on a faulty assumption that a future, post-attack Middle East would indeed be free of a nuclear-armed Iran. In fact, it may result in the worst of both worlds: a future nuclear-armed Iran more determined than ever to challenge the Jewish state, and with far fewer regional and international impediments to do so.

Let's consider a post-attack Middle East. The risk factors are well known: potential Iranian retaliation in the Levant, the Persian Gulf and perhaps against Israeli and American interests abroad, as well as destabilizing consequences for global oil markets. Those Israelis who favor a strike believe that such retaliation would be limited and in any case less harmful than facing a nuclear-armed Iran.

Those opposed to an attack, such as former Israeli Mossad head Meir Dagan, believe the risks are too uncertain and potentially too costly to justify a strike; in their view, covert actions will be more effective in slowing Iran's program, with fewer repercussions.

The consensus among Western analysts is that a military attack against Iran would at best delay Iran's nuclear development, not stop it. This is because Iran's nuclear facilities are believed to be widely dispersed and deeply buried, and because the nuclear expertise that Iran has developed so far cannot be eradicated through military strikes. On top of that, military attacks could push Iran to weaponize its program.

Thus, what the region's future may hold is not an Iran that has or hasn't acquired nuclear weapons, but rather a nuclear-armed Iran that has or hasn't been attacked by Israel.

Why should Israelis be worried about these alternatives? Because

doctor named Royal Rife, in the 1930s, developed a cure for cancer using a powerful microscope and a special kind of colored ray. Another physician William Coley, M.D., devised an ingenious method for killing cancer cells by making a vaccine from them. This vaccine was known as "Coley's Toxins" and they worked. Dr. Emanuel Revici developed a lipid-based therapy that had an amazingly high cure rate. These scientists are but three—there are dozens of doctors who cured cancer.

If they cured cancer, they why aren't we using their protocols?

Long ago, it was realized that cancer is big business. A cancer patient could be kept alive indefinitely, without getting worse and without getting better. The disease, the doctors said, was being "managed." And, the sad truth is, the powerful people in the cancer industry do not want anybody to get better. They want every cancer patient to have a nice, long, expensive illness. If you can't afford the costly pharmaceuticals, then you will be left to your own resources. That is, you will probably die.

But wait, it gets worse!

Oncologists (cancer specialists) are under severe constraints by the AMA and the FDA. They may only use "approved" treatments. These are chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery. They may not use other medications to treat cancer (called "off-license" use), nor any therapy that is not approved. And if, for example, they use a non-approved therapy—such as intravenous vitamin C—they run the risk of losing their license to practice. The only upside to this is that the FDA cannot possibly monitor every physician's activities. But still, if the doctor gets caught, he's finished.

Let me tell you a story.

In 2001, I interviewed a wonderful man, Ralph W. Moss, Ph.D. In the early '70s Dr. Moss worked for Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. His job was to write a monthly newsletter for the Center and to find out what new research was being conducted against cancer.

One day Dr. Moss went up to Walker Labs in Rye, New York and met the highly esteemed researcher, Kanematsu Sugiura. Dr. Sugiura was known as "The Father of Chemotherapy"; there was no one more prestigious than him. Dr. Moss saw Dr. Sugiura at lunch and casually asked him, "What are you working on now?" Dr. Sugiura replied, "I am working on amigdalyn." Dr. Moss had heard of amigdalyn, but it had not been approved by the FDA. But Dr. Sugiura's research confirmed that it was one of the most potent

while a nuclear-armed Iran that hasn't been attacked is dangerous, one that has been attacked may be much more likely to brandish its capabilities, to make sure it does not face an attack again. That could lead to escalation between two nuclear adversaries that have no direct lines of communication. Cold War-style deterrence is not likely to work well under such circumstances.

Absent an attack, there is at least the possibility Iran may seek only a "virtual" capability—reaping the benefits of deterrence by possessing the technology necessary to build a weapon but not actually doing so. Such a posture would still be worrisome and would require intrusive inspections to maintain, but it would be far less destabilizing than an openly nuclear-armed Iran. It would also decrease the incentives for neighboring countries to consider a nuclear option.

A unilateral attack by Israel would also diminish the determination of the international community to challenge Iranian transgressions of its Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty commitments, or to continue to support Israel. The Obama administration has left "all options on the table," but it clearly does not want a military strike.

Key players in Europe, not to mention smaller powers in Asia, would view military action as undermining diplomatic and economic options to solve the problem. Russia and China's response would be more hostile, jeopardizing Israel's growing political and economic relations with both countries.

Regional reactions would also be negative, further inflaming anti-Israel sentiment in Arab nations. Iran has been losing ground with Arab populations disillusioned with its repression at home and its support for President Bashar Assad's brutal repression in Syria, but an Israeli strike could allow Iran to bounce back as it plays the victim and fuels popular hatred toward Israel.

Likewise, Israel's relationship with key neighbors Egypt and Jordan, more beholden to popular sentiment in the aftermath of the Arab uprisings, could be severely strained, putting at risk vital peace treaties. Any prospect of shared anti-Iranian sentiment forging quiet common cause between Israel and Arab Persian Gulf states or Israel and Turkey would dissipate.

Israel has never been integrated into the Mideast. But Israel has rarely faced total isolation. When Israel has confronted Arab nation-

By RUSS MASON, M.S.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



For the better part of a decade, Russ Mason wrote for a medical journal, Alternative & Complementary Therapies. His principal assignment was to interview a physician or other health care practitioner about new and important treatments, as well as diet and nutrition. Prior to that, he worked at NBC in New York for 16 years, often as a writer for their television programs.

anti-cancer agents ever discovered; it could prevent metastases 80 percent of the time.

When Dr. Moss reported this to the chairmen of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, they were excited. Perhaps, at last, a verifiable cure for cancer had been found! Soon after, the three top doctors journeyed to Washington, D.C. and met with the head of the FDA, in order to get permission to conduct clinical trials on cancer patients.

Not only did the FDA respond with an emphatic NO, they said that if Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center even so much as dared to conduct research on sick patients, the Center's funding would be cut. Then, the FDA suggested that the research be redone at one of their own laboratories. The doctors from New York reluctantly agreed.

No it becomes nasty.

The research was redone and presto, it was shown that amigdalyn was of no use as a cancer therapy. When Dr. Sugiura was informed about this, he was outraged. "What was the dosage?" he demanded. Good question! It turns out that the FDA scientists used one-tenth the dosage of Sugiura's protocols. There was no way it could be effective.

By comparison, if you have a headache, the standard dosage is two aspirin tablets. Not one-fifth of one aspirin. See how research can be skewed to prove something doesn't work?

In the end, Ralph Moss left Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and went on to become the leading expert of cancer therapies in the world. He is a member of many international cancer communities and has received many honors and awards. Ralph is also my friend.

By DALIA DASSA KAYE

Los Angeles Times



Dalia Dassa Kaye, a visiting fellow at the UCLA Burkle Center for International Relations and a senior political scientist at the Rand Corp., is co-author of Israel and Iran: A Dangerous Rivalry. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

alist adversaries in the past (Egypt and Iraq), it had the non-Arab "periphery" to turn to (Iran and Turkey). When Israel perceived a rising threat from Iran, it turned to peacemaking with its Arab neighbors. Israel has not faced a strategic situation in which it is isolated from Arabs and non-Arabs alike, while at the same time facing growing international isolation.

To many in Israel, nothing could be worse than a future with a nuclear-armed Iran. But a future with a nuclear-armed Iran that has been attacked by Israel could actually be a lot worse.

Letters to the Editor

Just take us to the ball game

Congressman Gregorio Sablan's note that he is angry and his "shame on you" admonition to government officials over the food stamp or SNAP federal money brouhaha makes him look comical as a member of Congress. Sometimes quick thinking constituents serve as a mirror to those figures in pedestals. The Bible in Ecclesiastes say that showing that you are angry only makes you look like a fool. There is no reason for angry drama in the public eye by a respectable statesman. Just take us to the ball game, we know all the real players who are scoring runs in this play.

Francisco R. Agulto

Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |

▲85° ▾76°

▲86° ▾76°

▲86° ▾76°

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Micronesia

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Guam and Rota Thundershowers | ▲85 ▾78 |
| Palau Thunderstorms | ▲84 ▾78 |
| Yap Showers | ▲88 ▾77 |
| Chuuk Showers | ▲89 ▾80 |
| Pohnpei Showers | ▲84 ▾79 |
| Kosrae Showers | ▲84 ▾79 |
| Majuro Showers | ▲84 ▾79 |

Around The Globe

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Auckland Showers | ▲72 ▾68 |
| Beijing Partly Cloudy | ▲48 ▾24 |
| Hong Kong Showers | ▲70 ▾64 |
| Honolulu Partly Cloudy | ▲79 ▾68 |
| London Mostly Cloudy | ▲58 ▾40 |
| Los Angeles Sunny | ▲74 ▾51 |
| Manila Mostly Sunny | ▲89 ▾75 |
| Melbourne Sunny | ▲91 ▾58 |
| Miami Partly Cloudy | ▲85 ▾68 |
| New York Showers | ▲15 ▾7 |
| Osaka Partly Cloudy | ▲50 ▾42 |
| Paris Mostly Cloudy | ▲53 ▾48 |
| Pusan Windy | ▲47 ▾39 |
| Rome Sunny | ▲67 ▾41 |
| Salem Mostly Sunny | ▲52 ▾32 |
| San Francisco Sunny | ▲69 ▾48 |
| Seoul Cloudy | ▲46 ▾30 |
| Tokyo Partly Cloudy | ▲52 ▾43 |
| Washington, DC Partly Cloudy | ▲69 ▾52 |

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

| | | | | | |
|----------|---------|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| Today | 6:38 AM | 6:23 PM | Today | 7:06 AM | 7:26 PM |
| Friday | 6:38 AM | 6:23 PM | Friday | 7:44 AM | 8:15 PM |
| Saturday | 6:37 AM | 6:23 PM | Saturday | 8:22 AM | 9:03 PM |
| Sunday | 6:37 AM | 6:24 PM | Sunday | 9:00 AM | 9:51 PM |
| Monday | 6:36 AM | 6:24 PM | Monday | 9:40 AM | 10:40 PM |

| | | | | | |
|----------|---------|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| Today | 6:38 AM | 6:23 PM | Today | 7:06 AM | 7:26 PM |
| Friday | 6:38 AM | 6:23 PM | Friday | 7:44 AM | 8:15 PM |
| Saturday | 6:37 AM | 6:23 PM | Saturday | 8:22 AM | 9:03 PM |
| Sunday | 6:37 AM | 6:24 PM | Sunday | 9:00 AM | 9:51 PM |
| Monday | 6:36 AM | 6:24 PM | Monday | 9:40 AM | 10:40 PM |

Moonrise/Moonset

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

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ISLAND SNAPSHTOS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

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A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SAR

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.

Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Business

In Europe, spending cuts fail to ease debt burdens

WASHINGTON (AP)—Europe has endured the pain of layoffs, wage cuts and tax increases designed to bring government debt under control.

So where's the gain?

Far from falling, debt burdens are rising fastest in European countries that have enacted the most draconian austerity programs, according to The Associated Press' Global Economy Tracker, which monitors the performance of 30 major economies.

The numbers back up what many analysts say: Austerity isn't just painful. It can be counterproductive and even make a country's debt load grow.

Many fear the cutbacks will cause Europe to sink into a self-defeating spiral: Higher debt leads to harsher austerity, growing social instability and deeper economic problems. Governments could find it even harder to pay their bills.

The pain is already intense. Portugal's unemployment rate hit a record 14 percent at the end of last year. Ireland's economy contracted a worse-than-expected 1.9 percent in the July-



In this Feb. 10, 2012 file photo, a protester is led away by police officers during a protest against sweeping labor market reforms announced by Spain's new conservative government in Madrid.

September quarter of 2011. And Greece reported that its already basket-case economy shrank 7 percent in the October-December quarter of last year.

"This isn't a healthy situation," says Peter Morici, an economist at the University of Maryland.

Under a deal approved Tuesday by the 17 countries that use

the euro and the International Monetary Fund, Greece will get a \$172 billion bailout in exchange for accepting another dose of austerity that includes laying off 15,000 civil servants and slashing the minimum wage by 22 percent.

Progress has been made in the bond market, where inter-

est rates on government bonds have declined. That's made it cheaper for some indebted countries to borrow.

But the drop in rates might not last. And the lower rates probably have less to do with budget cutting than with what the countries' central banks are doing: They're buying bonds,

which pushes down rates, and providing low-cost loans for banks to do the same.

Borrowing costs haven't eased for every country: The yield on Portugal's 2-year government note is near a painful 13 percent, up from under 5 percent a year ago.

The best way to compare debt burdens among countries is to look at the debt as a percentage of gross domestic product. When it exceeds 90 percent, it's considered bad for an economy's health. GDP is the broadest gauge of economic output.

The AP's Global Economy Tracker illustrates how countries that have imposed austerity measures to slash costs have actually ended up with bigger debt problems:

■ Portugal cut pensions, reduced public servants' wages and raised taxes starting in 2010. Yet in the third quarter of 2011, government debt equaled 110 percent of GDP. That was up from 91 percent a year earlier.

■ In Ireland, middle-class wages have been reduced 15

percent and the sales tax boosted to 23 percent (the highest in the European Union). But its debt amounted to 105 percent of economic output in the third quarter of last year; a year earlier, it was 88 percent.

■ In Britain, Prime Minister David Cameron staked his political future on his austerity plan. Government debt ratios, though, reached 80 percent in third-quarter 2011, up from 74 percent a year earlier. And Moody's this month cut its outlook on Britain's prized AAA credit rating from "stable" to "negative."

■ In Greece, two years of austerity programs have devastated the economy and triggered riots. Still, the government's debt equaled an alarming 159 percent of the country's GDP in the July-September quarter of 2011. That was up from 139 percent a year earlier.

■ Norway, by contrast, has a strong economy and has avoided painful austerity measures. And its debts dropped to 39 percent of GDP in the third quarter, from 43.5 percent in the same quarter of 2010.

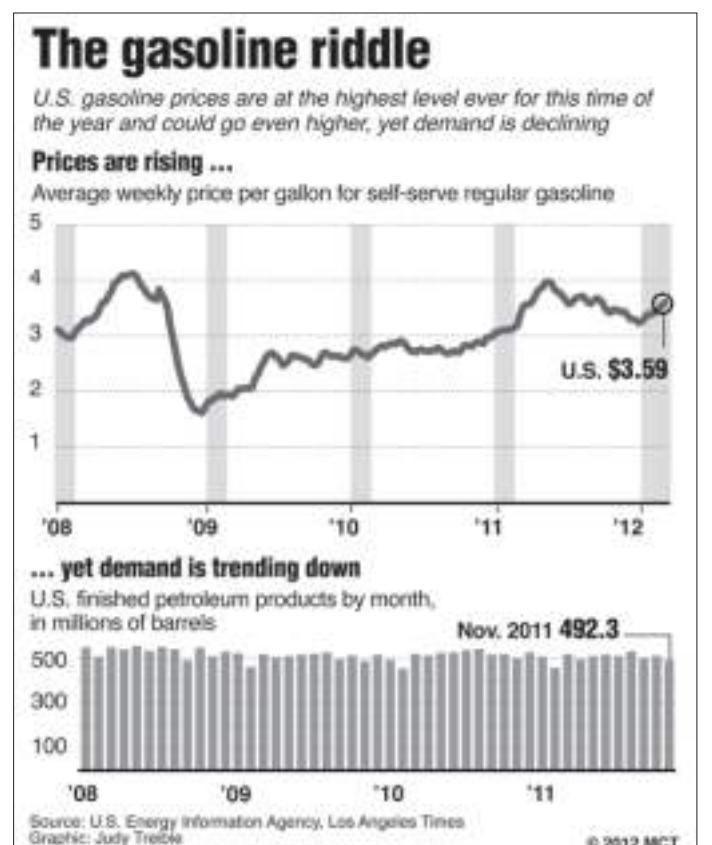
Oil hovers above \$106 as Iran tensions mount

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered above \$106 a barrel Wednesday in Asia amid concern that conflict over Iran's nuclear program could lead to global crude supply disruptions.

Benchmark crude for April delivery was down 14 cents to \$106.11 per barrel midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose \$2.65 to settle at \$106.25, the highest since May, in New York on Tuesday. Brent crude was steady at \$121.66 per barrel in London.

Oil has jumped from \$96 earlier this month amid escalating tension between Western powers and Iran.

On Tuesday, Iran Gen. Mohammed Hejazi warned his country is prepared to carry out a pre-emptive strike against any nation that threatens Iran. His comments followed Iran's announcement of war games to practice protecting nuclear and other sensitive



Source: Obama seeks 28 percent corp. tax rate

WASHINGTON (AP)—Laying down an election-year marker in the debate over taxes, the Obama administration is proposing to cut the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 28 percent, and to seek an even lower effective rate for manufacturers, a senior administration official says.

In turn, corporations would have to give up dozens of loopholes and subsidies that they now enjoy. Corporations with overseas operations would also

face a minimum tax on their foreign earnings.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner on Wednesday was to detail aspects of President Barack Obama's proposed overhaul of the corporate tax system, a plan Obama broadly outlined in his State of the Union speech last month.

Chances of accomplishing such change in the tax system are slim in a year dominated mostly with presidential and congressional elections. But for

Obama, the proposal is part of a larger tax plan that is central to his re-election strategy.

The corporate tax plan dovetails with Obama's call for raising taxes on millionaires and maintaining current rates on individuals making \$200,000 or less.

The 35 percent nominal corporate tax rate is the highest in the world after Japan. But deductions, credits and exemptions allow many corporations to pay taxes at a much lower rate.

Under the framework pro-

posed by the administration, the rate cuts, closed loopholes and the minimum tax on overseas earnings would result in no increase to the deficit.

That means that many businesses that slip through loopholes or enjoy subsidies and pay an effective tax rate that is substantially less than the 35 percent corporate tax could end up paying more under Obama's plan. Others, however, would pay less while some would simply benefit from a more simplified system.

go away for years."

Iran's Foreign Ministry also said Tuesday that visiting inspectors won't be able to tour the country's nuclear facilities. An International Atomic Energy

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Shell: Nigeria can produce 4M barrels of oil a day

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—Nigeria could produce as much as 4 million barrels of oil a day, but production remains held back by chronic problems with the nation's government and the rampant theft of crude from pipelines, a top official with Royal Dutch Shell PLC said Tuesday. The speech Tuesday by Shell executive vice president Ian Craig at an oil and gas conference in Nigeria's capital Abuja renews long-running complaints by the multinational firm in Nigeria, where it remains the dominant oil company. Craig also said that as much as 150,000 barrels of crude a day is being stolen by oil thieves in the Niger Delta despite an amnesty deal for militants there.

Feds investigate problems with side air bags

DETROIT (AP)—Federal safety regulators are investigating a problem with side air bags that may fail to inflate in a crash. The problem already has caused recalls of more than 2,700 Toyota, Honda, Subaru and Nissan vehicles, but that number could grow if the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration determines that more automakers used similar defective parts.

Agency team arrived in Tehran this week hoping to monitor Iran's nuclear program. Instead it will only hold talks with officials about ways to cooperate in the future.

The recalled vehicles could have an ineffective mixture of the gas that inflates the side curtain air bags in a crash. That mix could mean air bags on one or both sides of the cars won't inflate, increasing the risk of injury, the agency said in documents posted on its website. So far no one has been hurt.

Authorities: Debt-collector scam bilked millions

CHICAGO (AP)—A phone scam in which callers in India posed as debt collectors bilked millions of dollars out of more than 10,000 U.S. residents by using threats of arrest or the loss of their jobs, U.S. authorities said Tuesday in what they described as a first-of-its-kind investigation. Callers drew on personal data snatched from payday loan websites, Federal Trade Commission official Steven Baker said. More than 20 million calls may have been placed over the past two years, with collectors demanding between \$300 and \$2,000 per call. Such a far-reaching fraud with so many millions of calls flooding in from India is something investigators haven't seen before and was fostered in part by the plummeting costs of international calls, Baker, the FTC's Midwest director, said.

Nation

Monitoring of Muslim students sparks outrage

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City's mayor faced off with the president of Yale University on Monday over efforts by the city's police department to monitor Muslim student groups.

The Associated Press revealed over the weekend that in recent years, the NYPD has kept close watch on Muslim student associations across the Northeast. The effort that included daily tracking of student websites and blogs, monitoring who was speaking to the groups, and in one case sending an undercover officer on a whitewater rafting trip with students from the City College of New York.

Yale President Richard Levin was among a number of academics who condemned the effort in a statement Monday, while Rutgers University and leaders of student Muslim groups elsewhere called for investigations into the monitoring.

"I am writing to state, in the strongest possible terms, that police surveillance based on religion, nationality, or peacefully expressed political opinions is



AP
Mohammed and Nagiba el-Sioufi are seen in their office as they are interviewed by the Associated Press about the New York Police Department's surveillance of the Muslim community in Newark, N.J., Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2012.

antithetical to the values of Yale, the academic community, and the United States," Levin wrote.

Speaking to reporters later Monday, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg dismissed those criticisms as baseless.

"I don't know why keeping the

country safe is antithetical to the values of Yale," he said.

He said it was "ridiculous" to argue that there was anything wrong with officers keeping an eye on websites that are available to the general public.

"Of course we're going to look

at anything that's publicly available in the public domain. We have an obligation to do so, and it is to protect the very things that let Yale survive," Bloomberg said.

Asked by a reporter if he thought it was a "step too far" to send undercover investiga-

tors to accompany students on rafting vacations, Bloomberg said: "No. We have to keep this country safe."

"It's very cute to go and blame everybody and say we should stay away from anything that smacks of intelligence gathering. The job of our law enforcement is to make sure that they prevent things. And you only do that by being proactive."

Bloomberg added that he believed that police officers had obeyed the law.

The NYPD monitoring effort included schools far beyond the city limits, including the Ivy League colleges of Yale and the University of Pennsylvania, the AP reported Saturday.

Police talked with local authorities about professors 300 miles away in Buffalo. The undercover agent who attended the City College rafting trip recorded students' names and noted in police intelligence files how many times they prayed. Detectives trawled Muslim student websites every day and, although professors and students had not been accused

of any wrongdoing, their names were recorded in reports prepared for Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly.

Levin said Yale's police department did not participate in any monitoring by NYPD and was unaware of it.

A 2006 report explained that officers from the NYPD's Cyber Intelligence unit visited the websites, blogs and forums of Muslim student associations as a "daily routine." The universities included Yale; Columbia; Penn; Syracuse; Rutgers; New York University; Clarkson University; the State University of New York campuses in Buffalo, Albany, Stony Brook and Potsdam, N.Y.; Queens College, Baruch College, Brooklyn College and La Guardia Community College.

An NYPD spokesman said police wanted to get a better handle on what was occurring at student associations. He cited 12 people arrested or convicted on terrorism charges in the United States and abroad who had once been members of Muslim student associations, or MSAs.

Ariz., sponsored by CNN.

Gingrich, campaigning Monday in Oklahoma, called Obama "the most dangerous president in modern American history." Gingrich said the administration's "willful dishonesty" about alleged terrorists' motives threatens the country.

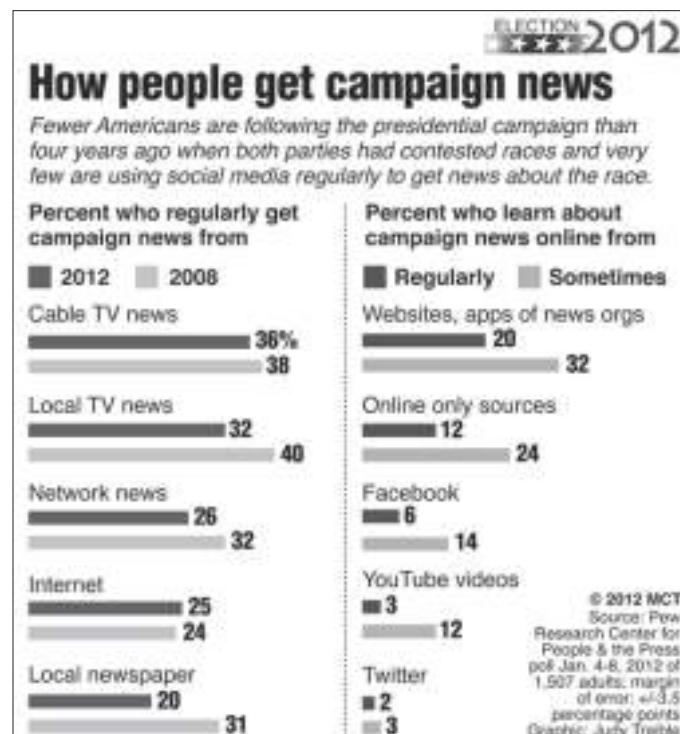
Santorum blasts Obama's motives on power, abortion

PHOENIX (AP)—A surging Rick Santorum is making increasingly harsh remarks about President Barack Obama, questioning not just the president's competence but his motives and even his Christian values.

Mitt Romney also is sharpening his anti-Obama rhetoric. He said Tuesday the president governs with "a secular agenda" that hurts religious freedom. In general, however, the former Massachusetts governor has not seriously challenged Obama's motives, often saying the president is decent but inept.

But Santorum and Newt Gingrich have heightened their claims that Obama's intentions are not always benign, ahead of Wednesday's televised GOP presidential debate and next week's primaries in Michigan and Arizona.

Santorum, the former Penn-



Justices will review racial preference for college

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court is setting an election-season review of racial preference in college admissions, agreeing Tuesday to consider new limits on the contentious issue of affirmative action programs.

A challenge from a white student who was denied admission to the University of Texas flagship campus will be the high court's first look at affirmative action in higher education since its 2003 decision endorsing the use of race as a factor.

This time around, a more conservative court could jettison that earlier ruling or at least

limit when colleges may take account of race in admissions.

In a term already filled with health care, immigration and political redistricting, the justices won't hear the affirmative action case until the fall.

But the political calendar will still add drama. Arguments probably will take place in the final days of the presidential election campaign.

A broad ruling in favor of the student, Abigail Fisher, could threaten affirmative action programs at many of the nation's public and private universities, said Vanderbilt University law professor Brian Fitzpatrick.

A federal appeals court upheld the Texas program at issue, saying it was allowed under the high court's decision in *Grutter vs. Bollinger* in 2003 that upheld racial considerations in university admissions at the University of Michigan Law School.

But there have been changes in the Supreme Court since then. For one thing, Justice Samuel Alito appears more hostile to affirmative action than his predecessor, Sandra Day O'Connor. For another, Justice Elena Kagan, who might be expected to vote with the court's liberal-leaning justices in sup-

port of it, is not taking part in the case.

Kagan's absence probably is a result of the Justice Department's participation in the Texas case in the lower courts at a time when she served as the Obama administration's solicitor general.

Fisher, of Sugar Land, Texas, filed a lawsuit along with another woman when they were denied admission at the university's Austin campus. They contended the school's race-conscious policy violated their civil and constitutional rights. By then, the two had enrolled elsewhere.

on these points because Romney already has trouble appealing to the party's socially conservative base. Santorum's remarks could come up in Wednesday's debate in Mesa,

11 children removed from Texas home in abuse case

DAYTON, Texas (AP)—Texas authorities said Tuesday they removed 11 children from a crowded home where a registered sex offender lives after they found eight confined in a small, dark bedroom with restraints tying some to their beds.

Along with the children, 10 adults were living in the one-story, 1,700-square-foot home in Dayton, about 30 miles northeast of Houston, Child Protective Services spokeswoman Gwen Carter said. One month after a raid on the house, authorities are still trying to determine how the children are related and why they were there, she said.

The children ranged in age from 5 months to 11 years. Three who were age 5 or older had not been enrolled in school, Carter said.

The children were removed after authorities found two 2-year-old children tied to a bed during a January visit to the home, according to a court document.

A legally blind, 5-year-old girl "was in a restraint on a filthy mattress, and appeared to be in a daze," the document said. One child had a black eye and

knocked-out tooth.

The adults told investigators they tied the children when they slept or took a nap during the day "for safety," the document said. An investigator noted that none of the adults said they saw anything wrong with the arrangement.

Two of the children had what authorities feared was pneumonia and were taken to a children's hospital. All have since been placed in foster homes, Carter said.

The case is still under investigation, and Dayton Police Sgt. Doug O'Quinn said officials are looking into criminal charges. Liberty County District Attorney Mike Little said his office would present a case to a grand jury next month, but he declined to discuss possible suspects or charges.

"Our primary concern was to make sure that the children were stable and safe," Carter said.

The home with a "No Trespassing" sign out front is in a subdivision near land used for farming and ranching. A tricycle and other toys were in the backyard Tuesday, and several cars were parked outside.

Asia

Ties to Knicks' Lin peck at Taiwan bookishness

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—In achievement-oriented Taiwan, where studying is a pastime sport among young people, the outdoor complex of basketball courts near National Taiwan University is normally a pretty lonely place, more used to hosting raindrops and discarded food wrappers than pivoting feet and jump shots.

All that is starting to change as the island of 23 million people enters its fourth week of Linsanity, the worldwide phenomenon following the improbable success of New York Knicks guard Jeremy Lin, whose talent has helped energize one of the least dynamic teams in the NBA and whose parents spent their formative years in the central Taiwanese county of Changhua.

Though Lin himself was born and raised in the United States, Taiwan is proud to claim him as its own, seeing in the Harvard graduate's rapid rise from basketball obscurity to global stardom the same virtues they say propelled their island from agricultural backwater to high-tech powerhouse: hard work, devotion to family and modesty.

On a recent weekday afternoon, the NTU basketball complex featured a spirited one-on-one matchup between Jake Chang and Spencer Wang, two 19-year-old economics students who share a dream of playing in the NBA, even if their modest size and less than lightning speed suggest their studies will lead to a more appropriate career.

"I admit it," said Wang, smiling broadly. "Banking is probably a better bet for us."

But that doesn't diminish Lin's importance to them or their regard for his accomplishments on the biggest basketball



Students play a game of basketball on the courts of the National Taiwan University in Taipei, Taiwan, Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2012.

stage in the world.

"Lin really inspires me to be a better player," said Wang, who hits the NTU courts 3-4 times a week. "The main thing is he's Asian."

Adds Chang: "How can you not be inspired by Lin? He wasn't very famous, but he worked hard in the offseason and now he's a star."

Their comments underscore the durability of the "no shortcuts to success" ethos on Taiwan, a vital cog in the global information technology industry, where parents of third graders routinely ex-

change tips on how best to approach their children's math homework.

But Lin's achievement appears to be promoting an increased appreciation for the importance of sports in creating well-rounded individuals, even on bookish Taiwan.

Noting an upsurge in basketball interest—both in watching and playing—Mayor Eric Chu of the suburban cluster of Xinbei City near Taipei ordered officials to replenish missing nets at community and school basketball courts, and to ensure that night lighting at outdoor

facilities was working properly.

"Jeremy Lin's success tells Taiwanese parents that good players can be good students too," he said.

His message may be getting through. On Tuesday morning 4,000 Xinbei high school students were allowed time off from classes to see a televised broadcast of the Knicks game against the New Jersey Nets—a contest the Knicks lost after Lin fouled out.

"The students pleaded and I agreed to do this on an experimental basis," explained principal Wang Chi-kuang, as his charges jumped up and down and clapped red noisemakers to cheer their hero on.

Another Lin convert is Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou, who invoked the star's name to underscore the closeness of the island's relations with the United States, while greeting a visiting congressional delegation on Tuesday morning.

"We are both democracies, we are both concerned with human rights and peace, and we both appreciate the basketball skills of Jeremy Lin," Ma said.

That seems to be an understatement. On the day that Ma spoke, all four Taiwanese morning newspapers ran full color or page one photographs of Lin in action against the Dallas Mavericks, while TV news stations aired endless commentaries on his exploits.

While American publications have tried to outdo each other with Lin-based puns, their Taiwanese counterparts refer to him simply as the "Hao" kid, a play on words that exploits his second Chinese name, which means both "good" and "heroic."

15,000 die each year crossing rail tracks in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—About 15,000 people die every year trying to cross the tracks of India's mammoth rail network, a "massacre" that a government committee said was being ignored by railway authorities.

The safety panel said new bridges and overpasses were urgently needed, but it noted previous recommendations to make the world's fourth largest railway system safer had been ignored. Its report noted that railway authorities were unwilling to view the deaths of people hit by trains while crossing the tracks as train accidents.

Most of the deaths occur at unmanned railroad crossings, said the report released over the weekend. About 6,000 people die on Mumbai's crowded suburban rail network alone.

Another 1,000 people die when they fall from crowded coaches, when trains collide or coaches derail, it said.

India's 40,000 miles (64,000 kilometers) of railway track cut through some of the most densely populated cities, flanked by shanty towns, in the nation of 1.2 billion people.

Railway experts say stopping pedestrians from crossing the tracks in congested areas would be virtually impossible.

"The situation is exceptionally dangerous in Mumbai where four or five tracks, or more, lie parallel and people living in slums on either side have no choice but to walk across the tracks," said I.M.S. Rana, a railway expert.

The High Level Safety Review Committee was set up by the government in September after a spate of train acci-

dents. Around 20 million people in India travel by train each day.

The report called on the government to urgently replace all railroad crossings with bridges or overpasses at an estimated cost of 500 billion rupees (\$10 billion) over the next five years.

"No civilized society can accept such a massacre on their railway system," the report said, referring to the crossing deaths.

"Reluctance of the Indian railways to own up to the casualties, which do not fall under the purview of accidents, but are nevertheless accidents on account of trains, can by no means be ignored," the report said.

The panel was especially scathing about the large number of deaths in Mumbai and recommended that the "grim situation on Mumbai's suburban system has to be tackled on a war-footing."

"Trespassing occurs because of lack of barricading, fencing, lack of adequate number of pedestrian overbridges and lack of facilities such as sufficient number of platforms, escalators, elevators for the disabled apart from insufficient train services. These are the main reasons for the heavy human death toll," the report said.

The committee, headed by leading scientist Anil Kakodkar, blamed railway authorities for the "grim picture," saying there were lax safety standards and poor management. Kakodkar headed India's Department of Atomic Energy before he retired last year.

It said local managers are not given adequate power to make crucial decisions and that safety regulations are also breached because of severe manpower shortages.

ASIAN BRIEFS

US apologizes for Quran burnings in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan

(AP)—The U.S. apologized Tuesday for the burning of Muslim holy books that had been pulled from the shelves of a detention center library adjoining a major base in eastern Afghanistan because they contained extremist messages or inscriptions. The White House echoed military officials in saying that the burning of Qurans and other Islamic reading material that had been tossed in a pile of garbage was an accident. But more than 2,000 Afghans protested the incident outside the Bagram Air Base that stoked rising anti-foreign sentiment and fueled Afghan claims that foreign troops disrespect their culture and Islamic religion even as the Americans and other NATO forces prepare to withdraw by the end of 2014.

Indonesian police storm Bali prison after riot

BALI, Indonesia (AP)—Security forces stormed a prison on Indonesia's resort island of Bali on Wednesday after rioting inmates temporarily took control of the facility, setting fires and throwing rocks at guards. At least three inmates were wounded. The violence erupted Tuesday night at the Kerobokan prison following the stabbing last week of an inmate. Local police chief Maj. Gen. Totoy Herawan Indra said riot police and soldiers stormed the compound early Wednesday as hundreds of heavily armed security forces surrounded the perimeter.

New Zealanders gather to remember earthquake dead

WELLINGTON, New Zealand

(AP)—More than 10,000 New Zealanders stood in silence, some in tears, at a Christchurch park Wednesday while police officers and firefighters read out the names of all 185 people who died in a devastating earthquake one year ago. The reading was followed by two minutes of silence at 12:51 p.m., the minute the magnitude-6.1 quake struck. It destroyed thousands of homes and much of downtown Christchurch, causing 30 billion dollars (\$25 billion) in damage by the government's estimate.

The ceremony, headed by leading scientist Anil Kakodkar, blamed railway authorities for the "grim picture," saying there were lax safety standards and poor management. Kakodkar headed India's Department of Atomic Energy before he retired last year.

It said local managers are not given adequate power to make crucial decisions and that safety regulations are also breached because of severe manpower shortages.

PH launches new anti-kidnapping force

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police launched a new anti-kidnapping force Tuesday to deal with a long-standing scourge by criminal gangs and militants that authorities say has been eased by crackdowns but anti-crime advocates continue to regard with alarm.

Kidnapping for ransom in the Philippines have been cited for spooking would-be investors and tourists. They also are blamed for allowing al-Qaida-linked groups such as the Abu Sayyaf, which is based in the country's restive south, to finance terrorist attacks and endure years of U.S.-backed military crackdowns that have severed their known ties with foreign donors.

In the latest case underscoring the problem's complexity, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim ordered the arrest of 10 policemen who allegedly abducted four South Korean tourists and framed the victims with a false drugs offense to extort \$30,000 from them.

A Korean man who allegedly connived with the policemen fled but has been arrested in South Korea.

The Philippines' national police chief, Director-General Nicanor Bartolome, said the new anti-kidnapping force would focus solely on the problem of abductions and replace the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response force, which for a decade dealt with hundreds of abduction cases, but also with high-profile killings and other crimes.

The new force will be manned by hundreds of hostage negotiators, crisis managers and operatives and receive a

considerably larger budget than the former one, is expected to deal a stronger blow to the kidnapping menace, Bartolome said.

"The message is, we will hit you harder," police spokesman Agrimero Cruz said.

Since the previous police anti-kidnapping force's establishment in 2002, it dealt with 373 cases by ordinary criminal syndicates and hundreds of others staged by Muslim militant groups such as the Abu Sayyaf. Of the 373 kidnappings, the police agency solved 113, convicting 140 suspects and killing 164 others in assaults, officials said.

Police officials did not immediately provide statistics on past kidnappings by terrorist groups.

Senior Superintendent Isagani Nerez, commander of the outgoing and new anti-kidnapping force, said kidnappings for ransom have considerably eased over the years, with just 11 staged by criminal syndicates and 14 carried out by the Abu Sayyaf and other Muslim militant groups last year.

Nerez attributed the improvement to heavier police presence in hotspots and relentless assaults that broke up several syndicates, especially in the country's northern Luzon and central Visayan regions.

Prominent anti-crime advocate Teresita Ang-See acknowledged police successes in breaking up syndicates and reducing incidents but said kidnappings remain a serious concern.

"The kidnapping problem has been with us and is still with us," Ang-See said.

World

Dozens killed in Syria; Red Cross urges cease-fire

WORLD BRIEFS

Venezuelan leader Chavez faces new surgery

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez announced Tuesday that doctors in Cuba found a new lesion in the same place where he had a tumor removed last year and said he will require surgery. "It is a small lesion of about 2 centimeters (less than 1 inch) in diameter, very clearly visible," Chavez told state television. The announcement thrust Venezuelan politics into new uncertainty because the socialist leader is seeking re-election this year, hoping to extend his more than 13 years in power with a new six-year term. He did not say when or where he would undergo the surgery, other than "in the coming days." He said he would meet with his inner circle to decide and expected to provide more details after a Wednesday Cabinet meeting.

Kenya blames Somali militants for food crisis

TABDA, Somalia (AP)—An 80-year-old Somali woman fondly recalled her younger days. There was peace in Somalia then, and people in the town of Tabda in the arid scrublands of the country's south did not rely on the mercy of others for food. Khadra Muhamud Aden says food supplies to the area are running low because fighting between Kenyan troops and the al-Qaida-affiliated Somali militant group al-Shabab is blocking food from both the Kenyan border and the Somali port of Kismayo. Officials said Somalia's south is now in the beginning stages of a humanitarian crisis because its residents are not getting the needed supplies, and they urged more relief agencies to step in.

UN: W. Africa cocaine trade generates \$900M a year

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. agency that fights drugs and crime estimated that cocaine trafficking is generating some \$900 million annually in West and Central Africa as South American cartels use the shortest route to transport drugs to Europe.

Yuri Fedotov, the head of the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime, told the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday that in addition to an upsurge in cocaine trafficking, West Africa is experiencing an increase in piracy, arms and human trafficking.

He said South American drug cartels were not only exploiting poverty but a lack of border controls, weak law enforcement, and endemic corruption in West Africa to reach Europe.

"The West African transit

BEIRUT (AP)—Food and water are running dangerously low in the besieged Syrian city of Homs, with frantic cries for help from residents amid government shelling that pounded rebel strongholds and killed at least 30 people Tuesday, activists said.

Shells reportedly rained down on rebellious districts at a rate of 10 per minute at one point and the Red Cross called for a daily two-hour cease-fire so that it can deliver emergency aid to the wounded and sick.

"If they don't die in the shelling, they will die of hunger," activist and resident Omar Shaker told The Associated Press after hours of intense shelling concentrated on the rebel-held neighborhood of Baba Amr that the opposition has extolled as a symbol of their 11-month uprising against President Bashar Assad's regime.

Another 33 people were killed in northern Syria's mountainous Jabal al-Zawiya region when government forces raided a town in pursuit of regime opponents, raising Tuesday's overall death toll to 63, activists said.

The Local Coordination Committees, an opposition group, said more than 100 were killed Tuesday, but the report could not immediately be confirmed by others.

Russia, one of Assad's remaining allies, urged the United Nations to send a special envoy to Syria to help coordinate security issues and delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Assad's forces showed no sign of easing their assault on Homs, Syria's third-largest city, whose defiance has become an embarrassing counterpoint to the regime's insistence that the opposition is mostly armed factions with limited public support.

The rebel defenses in Homs are believed to be bolstered by hundreds of military defectors, which has possibly complicated attempts by Syrian troops to



In this Monday, Feb. 20, 2012 citizen journalism image provided by the Local Coordination Committees in Syria and accessed on Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2012, houses are seen destroyed from Syrian government forces shelling, at Baba Amr neighborhood in Homs province, Syria. AP

stage an offensive. On Monday, reinforcements of Syrian tanks and soldiers massed outside the city in what could be a prelude to a ground attack.

"Government troops have been unable to advance because of stiff resistance from defectors inside," an activist in Homs told the AP on condition of anonymity, because of fears of government reprisal. Another activist in Homs said the shelling started after repeated attempts by troops to storm the edges of Baba Amr, which the opposition has dubbed "Syria's Misrata" after the Libyan city that refused to fall to withering government attacks last year.

One Homs resident, communicating with the AP by Internet chat, said many people are unable or too scared to go to the hospital for treatment. Some are bleeding to death at home.

"My cousin is a doctor and he said they've given up on treating serious wounds. The numbers

are too many to cope with especially with so little supplies," said the resident, who has provided reliable information in the past. The resident spoke on condition of anonymity because of the fear of reprisal.

The resident, who lives just outside Baba Amr, said people in the neighborhood were surviving mostly on stocks of rice and canned corn and tuna, but those supplies also were running out fast after several weeks of attacks.

Some people go without bread for days, and when grocery stores and bakeries reopen during a lull in the shelling, long lines form quickly, the resident said, adding that shortages exist of all kinds of foodstuffs and vegetables.

The Red Cross said it has been negotiating with Syrian authorities and members of the opposition to agree a temporary cease-fire so emergency aid can reach beleaguered parts of the country.

"The current situation requires an immediate decision

route feeds a European cocaine market which in recent years grew four fold, reaching an amount almost equal to the U.S. market," he said. "We estimate that cocaine trafficking in West and Central Africa generates some \$900 million annually."

That estimate is up from an April 2011 UNODC report that put the figure at \$800 million for 2009.

Fedotov said illegal drug consumption is also growing fast in the region, where there are now up to 2.5 million drug users.

He said greater understanding is needed of the extent to which drug trafficking may be linked to piracy off West Africa's coast.

He told the council that an assessment mission he sent in December to look at the effects of the Libya crisis on the Sahel "found that terrorist

groups, such as al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, have begun to form alliances with drug traffickers, and other criminal syndicates."

"Such alliances have the potential to further destabilize the region and reverse hard-won democratic and peacebuilding achievements," the secretary-general warned.

Benin's Minister of State for National Security Issifou N'Douro said the dispersal of Libya's arsenal and mass departure of Libyans following the ouster of Moammar Gadhafi "has considerably worsened the challenges that West Africa and the Sahel in particular are facing in terms of combatting organized transnational crime."

to implement a humanitarian pause in the fighting," said Jakob Kellenberger, the president of the Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross. "In Homs and in other affected areas, entire families have been stuck for days in their homes, unable to step outside to get bread, other food or water, or to obtain medical care."

Kellenberger said the cease-fire should last at least two hours daily, so that Red Cross staff and Syrian Arab Red Crescent volunteers have enough time to deliver aid and evacuate the wounded.

Beatrice Megevand-Roggio, the ICRC's head of operations for the Middle East, described Homs as "sort of a ghost city," adding that other parts of Syria also were badly affected by the fighting.

White House spokesman Jay Carney backed a Red Cross call for a daily cease-fire in Syria in order to deliver humanitarian aid.

UN nuke agency reports failed Iran talks

VIENNA (AP)—The U.N. nuclear agency on Wednesday acknowledged its renewed failure in trying to probe suspicions that Tehran has worked secretly on atomic arms, in a statement issued shortly after an Iranian general warned of a pre-emptive strike against any nation that threatens Iran.

The double signs of defiance reflected continued Iranian determination not to bow to demands that it defuse suspicions about its nuclear activities despite rapidly growing international sanctions imposed over its refusal to signal it is ready to compromise.

With the International Atomic Energy Agency already failing to dent Iranian stonewalling in talks that ended just three weeks ago, hopes had muted that the latest effort would be any more successful even before the IAEA issued its statement.

The fact that the communiqué was issued early Wednesday, shortly after midnight and just after the IAEA experts left Tehran, reflected the urgency the agency attached to telling its side of the story.

As the two-day IAEA visit was winding down, Iranian officials sought to cast it in a positive light, with foreign ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast telling reporters that "co-operation with the agency continues and is at its best level."

Beyond differing with that view, the language of the IAEA communiqué clearly—if indirectly—blamed Tehran for the lack of progress.

"We engaged in a constructive spirit, but no agreement was reached," it quoted IAEA chief Yukiya Amano as saying.

The communiqué said that

on both visits, Iran did not grant requests by the IAEA mission to visit Parchin—a military site thought to be used for explosives testing related to nuclear detonations, and cited Amano as calling this decision "disappointing."

It also said that no agreement was reached on how to begin "clarification of unresolved issues in connection with Iran's nuclear programme, particularly those relating to possible military dimensions."

The abortive trip was just the latest sign of Iranian resolve to continue hard-line resistance in the face of international pressure to curb its nuclear activities, despite sanctions and U.S. and Israeli warnings of possible last-resort military action should diplomacy fail.

Iran over the weekend announced that it will stop selling oil to Britain and France in retaliation for a planned European oil embargo this summer. The move was mainly symbolic—Britain and France import almost no oil from Iran—but it raised concerns that Iran could take the same hard line with other European nations that use more Iranian crude.

The European Union buys about 18 percent of Iran's oil exports, though most of that comes from sales to just two countries: Italy and Spain.

Iran flailed out again just hours before the IAEA team left, with Gen. Mohammed Hejazi, who heads the military's logistical wing, warning that Iran will "not wait for enemies to take action against us."

"We will use all our means to protect our national interests," he told the semiofficial Fars news agency.

Focus

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Maryland (AP)—Bret Baker welcomes customers aboard a Boeing 757 wearing a three-piece suit and a sparkling smile. His manner is all Friendly Skies but his pocket patch bears the seal of the Vice President of the United States, signaling that this is government business.

And though his brass name tag reads, simply, "Bret," make no mistake: That's Air Force Tech. Sgt. Baker ensuring that seat belts are fastened and carry-ons securely stowed. He's also responsible for making sure meals have been prepared for dozens of passengers who really didn't have time to pick up snacks before boarding, and whose far-flung destinations may not include safe or familiar foods.

Baker is a military flight attendant, part of a team serving America's top government officials, their staffs, guests and reporters aboard 19 planes flown by the 89th Airlift Wing out of Joint Base Andrews near Washington. Their customers include the president, vice president, first lady, secretary of state, secretary of defense and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

As attendants on Air Force One and other VIP planes flying as many as 1,000 missions a year, they perform all the safety and comfort functions of their commercial airline counterparts and more. Hurried departures and delays to accommodate impromptu news conferences are common. The attendants also must buy ingredients and prepare meals to their customer's preferences—sometimes on a day's notice.

More of them are learning advanced culinary techniques since the Air Force began flying expert chefs to Andrews in the last 18 months. During a session last week, 12 attendants in olive-green flight suits butterflied chicken breasts and chopped asparagus under the eyes of Me-



Tech Sgt. Bret Baker, left, instructs a group of flight attendants in training aboard a 757 or C32 at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Thursday, Feb. 2, 2012.

lissa Bigelow, a Los Angeles-based "chef to the stars" who has cooked for Tom Cruise and Simon Cowell. The artfully heaped plates of chicken pail-lard, mashed potatoes and vegetables were a tasty testament to the five-star service the unit aims to provide.



for security reasons.

"The crew are the only ones that are involved in any part of the food we serve, from start to finish," Farmer said. "No one else handles the food."

Nonperishable leftovers are saved for the next trip. The Associated Press was shown a closet shelf earmarked for the joint chiefs' chairman that held some Guinness beer and Kellogg's Nutri-Grain cereal bars. A shelf reserved for the secretary of state was stacked with cases of Deer Park water and snacks.

The Air Force is choosy about flight attendants. They must have exemplary service records and be eligible for presidential security clearance. Lai said there are openings every year for the 164 flight attendant positions. The applicants must submit three references and pass muster with a hiring board that places a high value on personality and professionalism.

Recent graduate Tech. Sgt. Erica Fowler, 30, said she applied for a flight-attendant opening after 11 years in the Air Force, most recently as dining hall manager.

"It's the best job in the Air Force," she said.

Tech. Sgt. Baker, 30, has served on Air Force One and now leads the vice president's flight-attendant crew. He said he's been to 65 countries in his 4 1/2 years as a flight attendant.

"We work as a team, we work as a crew, we represent the Air Force and, of course, we represent the nation as well," Baker said.

Corporate School of Etiquette President Donna Casacchia, whose company also trains attendants for private jets, said those with Air Force experience are in high demand among Fortune 500 companies.

"Their experience, their worldwide knowledge of cultural differences and their knowledge of food is superb," she said.



Tech Sgt. Crystal Harshbarger looks out through an emergency exit during an emergency landing simulation in Air Force flight attendant training at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Thursday, Feb. 2, 2012.

By DAVID DISHNEAU

Associated Press

New York-based Culinary Institute of America.

Good food can help busy government officials focus on important work during flights, Air Force officials say. And they don't want to read headlines about in-flight food complaints, as happened several years ago.

"You want that leader to be well-rested and well-fed," said Maj. Michelle Lai, the unit's spokeswoman.

"I don't necessarily want the president or the secretary of state going over to make decisions about nuclear policy on a bag of peanuts," she said.

Bringing an expert chef to Andrews is cheaper than flying the students to California, said Tech Sgt. Kristine Farmer, a flight-attendant evaluator who helped develop the advanced-cooking program.

She said fine dining should be a realistic option for clients aboard the fleet's distinctive, blue-and-white aircraft, but they can opt for more pedestrian fare.

"If they decide they want

peanut-butter-and-jelly, they get peanut-butter-and-jelly. If they decide they want filet, they get filet," she said.

The prepared meals are frozen and packed on board for trips that can sometimes last for days.

In-flight food quality hasn't always been a high point. The Wenatchee World, of Wenatchee, Washington, reported in 2005 that an aide to then-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice led a revolt against Wing Dings, commercially processed chicken wings, on the State Department plane.

Lai said food choices are made by the clients, not the flight attendants. "So if 'Wing Dings' were served on each trip, that was based on the party's selection, not a crew decision," she wrote in an email.

Lai said the attendants make meals from scratch whenever feasible but may use processed foods to augment menus on short notice.

White House spokesman

Environment

A CAUSE AMID CELEBRATION

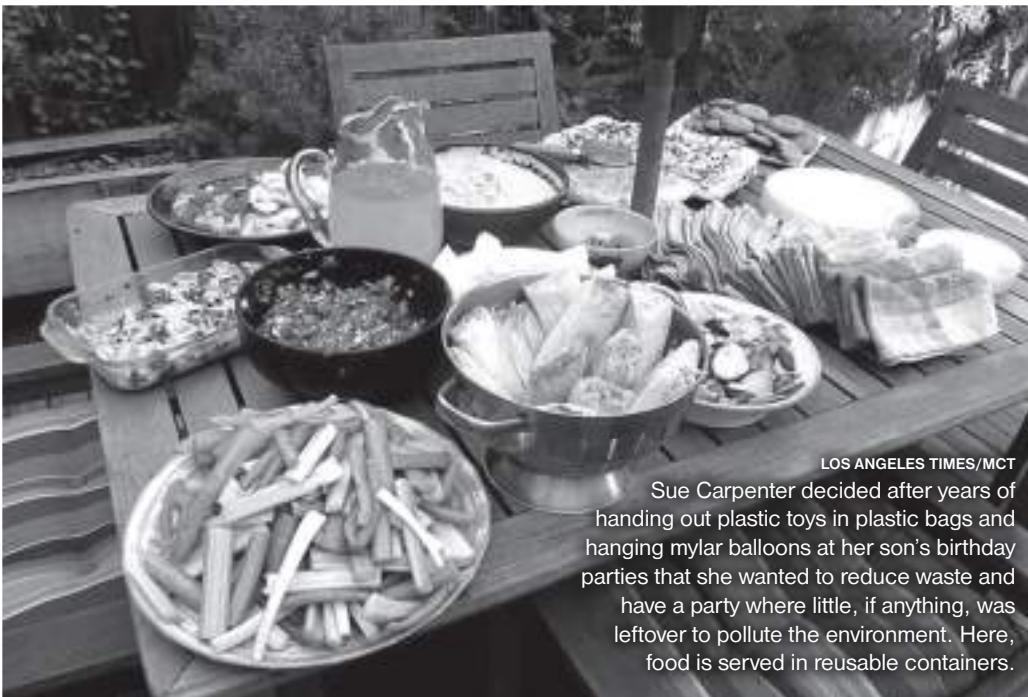
Low-trash birthday bash requires high effort for mom

By SUSAN CARPENTER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

I used to be the sort of mom who strung Mylar balloons with ribbon strings for my son's birthday parties. For each of his eight years, I handed out goody bags stuffed with candy and 99 Cents Only Store toys. I bought cakes topped with plastic decorations. I served junk food and Capri Suns. I was oblivious to the mounds of waste I was generating. I just wanted to throw the perfect party.

This year, I decided on something different. For my son's ninth, trash was the enemy. The goal: a party that generates zero garbage. There would be no Slinkies or wax candy mustaches. And Mylar? That was definitely out.

Throwing a zero-waste party was a challenge. I'm not going to lie. Certain items just weren't possible to eliminate, and the party needed to seem just as fun and "normal" as any of the previous birthday blowouts I've thrown. It's one thing to live environmentally conscious myself. It's another thing to ask parents I didn't know well to be part of the experiment, or to include my son, who splits his time between my house and his



LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Sue Carpenter decided after years of handing out plastic toys in plastic bags and hanging mylar balloons at her son's birthday parties that she wanted to reduce waste and have a party where little, if anything, was leftover to pollute the environment. Here, food is served in reusable containers.

dad's, where recycling isn't as big a priority.

The party was a two-parter. The first half was at Go Kart World in Carson, followed by an all-you-can-eat feast at my house. Invitations were sent electronically via Evite.com. I declined the print invitations offered by Go Kart World, as well as the goody bags that were part of a party package that included race-track rides, arcade tokens, pizza lunch and cake.

Four cars transported eight

kids and six adults to Carson. The carpooling probably didn't cancel out the Go Karts' emissions, but it was better than having eight vehicles make the 40-mile round trip from my house. On the trash front, I arranged with Go Kart World's party planner to bring my own reusable table settings instead of using their disposables. I brought the same plastic cups and cutlery that I've been reusing for the past couple years, and I borrowed reusable plastic plates

and cloth napkins from a friend.

Everything went as planned except for the disposable paper place mats that Go Kart World had set out and the cake, which was served in a two-piece plastic container and was cut with a disposable plastic server. The other surprise: Each child received the arcade tokens in baggies.

I took all the waste we'd generated home with me, which might have embarrassed my kid if he'd seen me packing up the

plate scrapings, but he didn't notice because he was too busy playing air hockey. I composted pizza crusts and cake scraps. I recycled the cake container. I washed and kept the cake cutter for next year, but I had to toss the burned candle stubs and adhesive wristbands that each kid had received for the rides because none of those items can be recycled. I couldn't find the token baggies; I suspect they had been trashed.

The biggest conundrums were food and presents. A former convenience junkie, I was used to buying everything pre-made. But this year, I made everything from scratch. I shopped at the Whole Foods bulk bins with plastic bags from home, picking up dried beans that I made into hummus and chocolate chips that I baked into cookies. Instead of serving juice in nonrecyclable pouches, I made lemonade served in reusable cups. In place of Doritos in non-recyclable bags, I fried tortillas into chips. Instead of barbecuing hamburgers or hot dogs that needed buns (more plastic bags),

I purchased tamales from a local market and packed them in my own Tupperware. I cut up celery, cucumbers, carrots and broccoli, then composted the scraps

along with the tamale wrappers. Rubber bands around the produce were kept for future reuse. It happened to be Super Bowl Sunday; the adults' beer bottles, boxes and caps were all recycled.

On the positive side, the party looked normal. I'm no Guy Fieri, but the food even tasted decent.

On the downside, making everything took at least four times as long as buying pre-made stuff from the store.

A few of my guests brought food. On the Evite, I suggested reusable containers, which most everyone brought. Most parents responded to my no- or low-waste request for presents by giving my son homemade birthday cards as well as gift cards to Toys R Us and Target, all of which can be recycled, except for the goo that sticks the gift cards to their paper backing. Unfortunately for my son, some parents took the request for little or no waste to mean "Don't bother bringing a present," which, at the end of what turned out to be an eight-hour extravaganza, ended with my son storming off to his room.

Otherwise, it was a success.

Comments for the Garbage Maven: susan.carpenter@latimes.com.

By KATY DAIGLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

New family of legless amphibians found in India



AP
In this photo released by www.frogindia.org, an adult chikilidae sits on its eggs in the soils of northeast India.

too many cases of "nameless extinction," with animals disappearing before they are ever known, he said. "We don't even know what we're losing."

Amphibians are particularly vulnerable, and have drastically declined in recent decades. The same sensitivity to climate and water quality that makes them perfect environmental barometers also puts them at the greatest risk when ecological systems go awry.

Biju, however, is working the reverse trend. Since 2001, he has discovered 76 new species of plants, caecilians and frogs—vastly more than any other scientist in India—and estimates

30-40 percent of the country's amphibians are yet to be found.

Within the chikilidae family, the team has already identified three species, and is on its way to classifying three more, he said.

The chikilidae's discovery, made along with co-researchers from London's Natural History Museum and Vrije University in Brussels, brings the number of known caecilian families in the world to 10. Three are in India and others are spread across the tropics in Southeast Asia, Africa and South America. There is debate about the classifications, however, and some scientists count even fewer caecilian families.

Because they live hidden

underground, and race off at the slightest vibration, much less is known about them than their more famous—and vocal—amphibious cousins, the frogs. Only 186 of the world's known amphibious species are caecilians, compared with more than 6,000 frog species—a third of which are considered endangered or threatened.

Even people living in northeast Indians misunderstand the caecilians, and rare sightings can inspire terror and revulsion, with farmers and villagers chopping them in half out of the mistaken belief that they are poisonous snakes.

In fact, the chikilidae is harmless, and may even be the farmer's best friend—feasting on worms and insects that might harm crops, and churning the soil as it moves underground.

Much remains to be discovered in further study, Biju said, as many questions remain about how the creatures live.

So far, Biju's team has determined that an adult chikilidae will remain with its eggs until they hatch, forgoing food for some 50 days. When the eggs hatch, the young emerge as tiny adults and squirm away.

They grow to about 4 inches (10 centimeters), and can ram their hard skulls through some of

Their discovery, published Wednesday in a journal of the Royal Society of London, gives yet more evidence that India is a hotbed of amphibian life with habitats worth protecting against the country's industry-heavy development agenda.

It also gives exciting new evidence in the study of prehistoric species migration, as well as evolutionary paths influenced by continental shift.

"This is a major hotspot of biological diversity, but one of the least explored," Biju said in an interview with The Associated Press. "We hope this new family will show the importance of

the region's tougher soils, shooting off quickly at the slightest vibration. "It's like a rocket," Biju said. "If you miss it the first try, you'll never catch it again."

A possibly superfluous set of eyes is shielded under a layer of skin, and may help the chikilidae gauge light from dark as in other caecilian species.

DNA testing suggests the chikilidae's closest relative is in Africa—with the two evolutionary paths splitting some 140 million years ago when dinosaurs roamed what was then a southern super-continent called Gondwana, since separated into today's continents of Africa, Antarctica, Australia, South America and the Indian subcontinent.

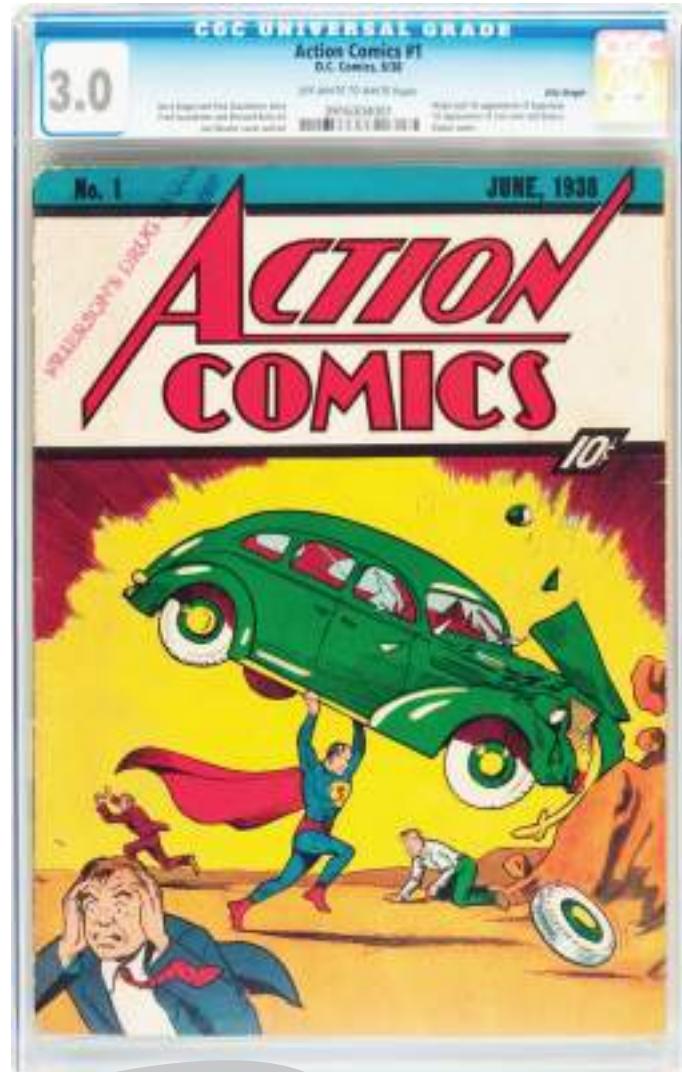
Biju's team worked best during monsoon season, when the digging is easier and chikilidae lay eggs in waterlogged soils. Gripping garden spades with blistered hands, the researchers along with locals they hired spent about 2,600 man hours digging for the elusive squigglers, usually found about 16 inches (40 centimeters) deep.

"It was backbreaking work," said research fellow Rachunliu Kamei, who even passed out in the forest once, and some days found not even one specimen.

"But there is motivation in knowing this is an uncharted frontier," said Kamei, lead researcher and main author of the study paper.

Life & Style

Inherited comic collection expected to fetch \$2M



This Feb. 13, 2012 handout photo provided by Heritage Auction shows the CGC-Certified 3.0 copy of Action Comics #1 from the Billy Wright Collection at Heritage Auctions in Dallas, Texas.

DALLAS (AP)—Michael Rorrer said his great aunt once mentioned having comic books she would one day give him and his brother, but it was a passing remark made when they were boys and still into superheroes.

Ruby Wright gave no indication at the time—and she died last February, leaving it unclear—that her late husband's comic collection contained some of the most prized issues ever published. The 345 comics were slated to sell at auction in

New York on Wednesday, and were expected to fetch more than \$2 million.

Rorrer, 31, of Oxnard, Calif., said he thought his great uncle Billy Wright's comics were cool, but he didn't realize how valuable they were for months

Colbert to release kids' book about a flag pole

NEW YORK (AP)—With the blessing of Maurice Sendak, Stephen Colbert is releasing a children's book.

Grand Central Publishing said Tuesday that it will publish "I Am a Pole (And So Can You!)" on May 8. In a two-part "Colbert Report" segment that aired last month, Colbert previewed the book with "Where the Wild Things Are" author Sendak.



Colbert

bly ordinary" but acknowledged, "The sad thing is I like it."

In a statement, Colbert said: "I hope the minutes you and your loved ones spend reading it are as fulfilling as the minutes I spent writing it."

Grand Central previously published Colbert's 2007 best-seller "I Am America (And So Can You!)" It will also publish his next book, "America Again: Re-Becoming the Greatness We Never Weren't" in October.

Claiming he was looking to "cash-in" on celebrity children's books, Colbert penned an illustrated story about a flag pole's quest for identity.

Sendak called the book "terri-

after finding them neatly stacked in a basement closet while helping clear out his great aunt's Martinsville, Va., home a few months after her death.

Rorrer, who works at a plant where oil is separated from water, said he was telling a co-worker about Captain America No. 2, a 1941 issue in which the hero bursts in on Adolf Hitler, when the co-worker mused that it would be something if he had Action Comics No. 1, in which Superman makes his first appearance.

"I went home and was looking through some of them and there it was," said Rorrer, who

then began researching the collection's value in earnest.

He found out that his great uncle had managed as a boy to buy a staggering array of what became the most valuable comic books ever published, and kept them in good condition.

"This is just one of those collections that all the guys in the business think don't exist anymore," said Lon Allen, the managing director of comics for Heritage Auctions, the Dallas-based auction house overseeing the sale.

The collection includes 44 of The Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide's list of top 100 is-

sues from comics' golden age.

"The scope of this collection is, from a historian's perspective, dizzying," said J.C. Vaughn, associate publisher of Overstreet.

Once Rorrer realized how valuable the comics were, he called his mother, Lisa Hernandez, who had divided them into two boxes, one for him and one for his brother in Houston, which she still had at her house. He and his mother then went through their boxes, checking comic after comic off the list.

"I couldn't believe what I had sitting there upstairs at my house," Rorrer said.

Hernandez, who works as an operator in a chemical plant, said it really hit her how valuable the comics were when she saw the look on Allen's face after he came to her house in League City, Texas, to look through the comics she had there.

"It was kind of hard to wrap my head around it," Allen said.

Rorrer said he only remembers his aunt making the fleeting reference to the comics when she learned that he and his brother, Jonathan Rorrer, now 29, liked comic books. He said his great uncle, who died in 1994 at age 66, never mentioned his collection.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF George Joseph "Keoki" Affatica Sablan (Pitu)

Born on October 23, 1970 and was called to eternal rest
on February 10, 2012 in Honolulu Hawaii

In his new life, he now joins his:

Grandparents: Alejandro and Fidelia Sablan (Pitu)

Philip and Beatrice Affatica

Aunts and Uncles: Concepcion, Juan, Leonordes, Santiago and Francisco Camacho Sablan

His loving memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Consalacion Muna Sablan

Daughters: Keavonnie Muna Sablan and Heaven Muna Hocog

Parents: Jose Camacho Sablan (Pitu) and Janice Affatica Sablan

Brother: Alexander Affatica Sablan (Nora)

Amanda Mae, Kanani Lynn and Sean Alexander

Sister: Leilani Sablan Matsumoto (Nori)

Koujiro Jonah

He will also be missed by his numerous Aunts, Uncles, Nieces, Nephews and Cousins.

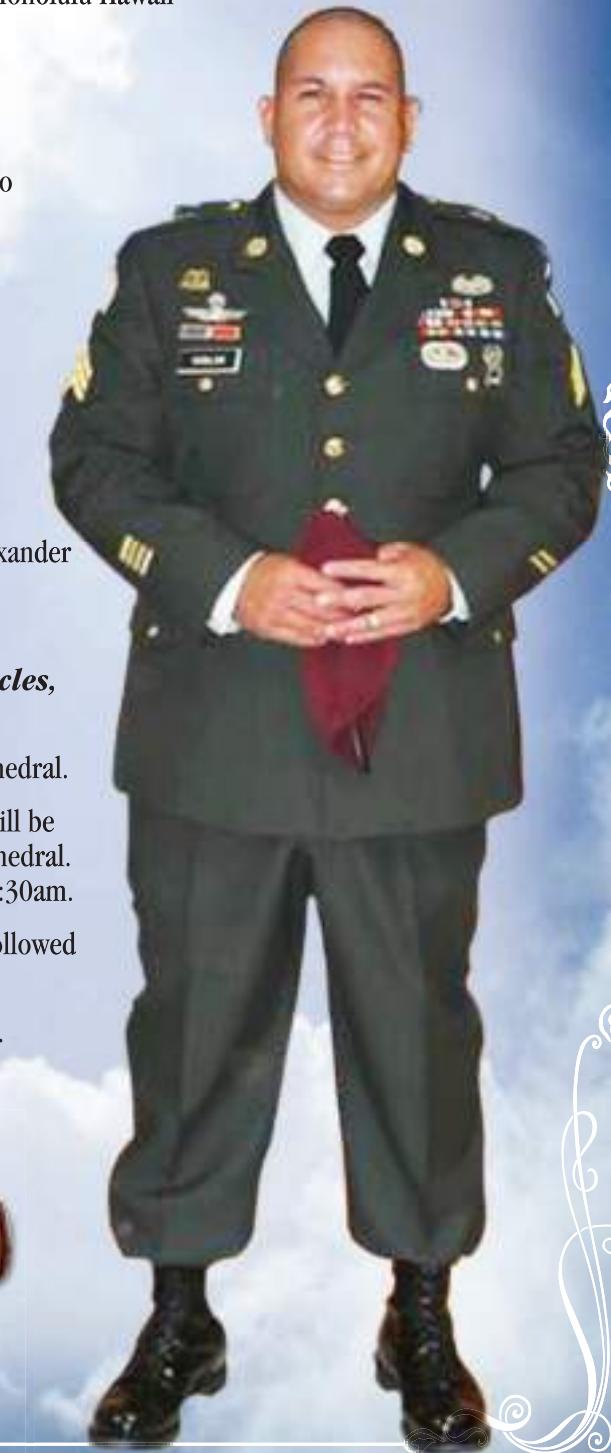
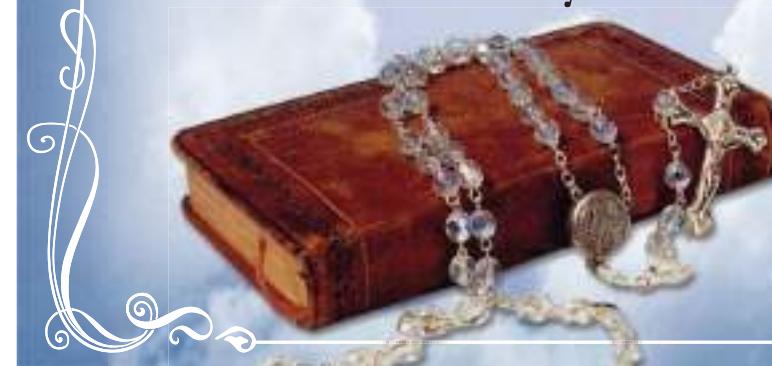
Nightly rosary is offered at 7:00 p.m., Mount Carmel Cathedral.

On Friday, February 24, 2012 at 7:30am, his remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to Mount Carmel Cathedral. Viewing and last respects will be held from 9:00am to 10:30am.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am, followed by the interment service at the Veterans Cemetery.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

The Family



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Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance

Friday 4:05 7:05 9:45
Saturday & Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
Monday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Tuesday thru Thursday 4:05 7:05

Nicolas Cage, Ciarán Hinds, Violante Placido
Action • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Nicolas Cage returns as the spirit of vengeance with this sequel to 2007's Ghost Rider from the Crank team of Mark Neveldine and Brian Taylor.

This Means War

Friday 4:25 7:25 9:40
Saturday & Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:40
Monday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Tuesday thru Thursday 4:25 7:25

Reese Witherspoon, Chris Pine
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis
Two top CIA spies (Star Trek's Chris Pine and Inception's Tom Hardy) find their enduring friendship put to the ultimate test when they engage in an all-out war to win the affections of a beautiful woman (Reese Witherspoon). Chelsea Handler and Til Schweiger co-star in a comedy co-written by Simon Kinberg (Sherlock Holmes) and Timothy Dowling (Role Models) and directed by McG (Charlie's Angels, Terminator Salvation).

Journey2: Mysterious Island

Friday 4:15 7:15 9:55
Saturday & Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:55
Monday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Tuesday thru Thursday 4:15 7:15

The Rock, Vanessa Hudgens, Michael Caine
Adventure • Rated PG

Safe House

Friday 4:20 7:20 9:35
Saturday & Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:35
Monday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Tuesday thru Thursday 4:20 7:20

Denzel Washington, Ryan Reynolds
Spy film, Thriller • Rated R

The Descendants

Friday 4:30 7:30 9:50
Saturday & Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:50
Monday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Tuesday thru Thursday 4:30 7:30

George Clooney, Shailene Woodley
Comedy, Drama • Rated R

The Woman In Black

Friday 7:00
Saturday & Sunday 1:00 7:00
Monday 1:00 7:00
Tuesday thru Thursday 7:00

Daniel Radcliffe, Ciarán Hinds
Thriller, Mystery • Rated PG 13

Chronicle

Friday 4:10 7:10 9:30
Saturday & Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:30
Monday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Tuesday thru Thursday 4:10 7:10

Dane DeHaan, Alex Russel
Thriller • Rated PG 13

The Grey

Friday 4:00 10:00
Saturday & Sunday 4:00 10:00
Monday 4:00
Tuesday thru Thursday 4:00

Liam Neeson, Frank Grillo
Adventure • Rated R

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Copy of 'Mona Lisa' draws large crowds at Spain's Prado Museum

MADRID (AP)—Crowds gathered Tuesday at Madrid's Prado Museum to view a copy of the "Mona Lisa" for the first time since restoration revealed it was almost certainly painted by one of Leonardo da Vinci's apprentices as he worked on the original.

The painting is on display until March 13, after which it will move to Paris' Louvre museum to hang alongside the original as part of an exhibition on da Vinci's work.

Although the precise author of the copy has not been determined, both the Prado and Louvre believe it is probably the earliest known copy of "La Gioconda," as the painting is also known since it is believed to depict Lisa, the wife of Francesco del Giocondo.

The Prado described it as "the most important version known to date of Leonardo's emblematic painting."

The copy has been part of Spain's art collection for hundreds of years. It had previously been on display in the Prado but was given little attention as it was considered a mediocre copy.

But hours after opening Tuesday, dozens of people packed the area around the work to try to get a closer look, triggering further comparisons with the original in the French capital.



AP A woman takes a photo on a cell phone of a "Mona Lisa" copy on display in Spain's Prado Museum in Madrid Tuesday Feb. 21, 2012.

"It's a good thing for the Prado—anything that brings people here and encourages them to look and to think," said Gabriele Finaldi, the mu-

seum's deputy director of conservation and research.

The Prado said it will continue to hang the copy alongside other early Italian works

when it returns from Paris, but consider moving it to a more spacious area if it continues to attract big crowds.

"This, after all, is a copy, said Finaldi. "The interesting thing is that it's a copy that takes you into Leonardo's studio. It's not a copy made afterward. It's made at the same time as the great master is working."

Visitors were uncertain what to think.

"I think the Mona Lisa that we have always known is much more romantic, maybe because I thought of it as unique," said Spanish nurse Marta Diaz. "The woman in the copy is much prettier but I prefer the original."

For more than 200 years the background behind the Gioconda copy was black, not the pretty mountainous landscape of the "Mona Lisa".

But when work began two years ago to get it ready for the da Vinci exhibit, X-ray tests revealed the landscape underneath and showed that changes made in the copy were similar to those made to the original as it evolved.

"It was a genuine revelation," said Finaldi.

Blackening backgrounds to highlight figures was not an unusual practice with paintings in the past.

The Prado hopes the work will help further studies into the "Mona Lisa," and says it reveals details and sketch lines no longer immediately apparent in the original.

Former 'Columbo' star Falk leaves \$3M to UCLA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The estate of former "Columbo" star Peter Falk has donated \$3 million to the University of California, Los Angeles, for student scholarships.

UCLA officials say the money will be used to establish the Shera and Peter Falk Lt. Columbo Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Falk died in June at the age of 83 after a long acting career with performances on Broadway, television and in movies.

He was best known for his role as a disheveled but astute Los Angeles police detective on "Columbo," which earned him four Primetime Emmy Awards.

The first award will go to five students entering UCLA in fall 2012. They will have their tuition covered for four years.

The scholarship's focus will be on aiding undergraduates studying music, those with disabilities and military veterans.

IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE

*We, the family
of the late*



REMBERT VINCENT MANGLONA HOF SCHNEIDER

would like to convey our sincere gratitude to the many individuals who offered words of encouragement and prayers, during the daily masses and nightly rosaries, since the unexpected and sudden passing of our beloved †Rembert who was called to eternal rest on February 5th, 2012.

Our sincere thanks, to Reverend Father Sid Ogunmoro and Reverend Father Jess Reyes, who celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial. Thank you to the San Jose Church Tinian Choir who provided beautiful music for our beloved †Rembert.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Honorable Ramon M. Dela Cruz, Mayor of Tinian, his family and staff, Tinian Joint Legislative Delegation, Tinian Municipal Council, Tinian Liaison Office staff and patients, family and friends on Saipan, Frank Cabrera of Cabrera Funeral Services and staff, Uncle Joe P. San Nicolas of SN-Five Enterprises, Wayne L. Villagomez and assistants, Bernadita H. Borja, Priscilia O. Kiyoshi, our rosary prayer leaders on Saipan, Auntie Upe Hofsneider and Stacy C. Camacho, our prayer leader on Tinian, Tan Rosa Aquinoc, and to the many others, who provided assistance to us in one way or another, your generosity and selfless support is truly appreciated by Vicenta, Chailing and our families.

Un Sen Dangkulo Na Si Yu'os Ma'ase and God Bless You.

**Magdalena M. Hofsneider and Children
Vicenta P. San Nicolas and Chailing SN. Hofsneider**



Adele, Ed Sheeran win at Brit Awards

LONDON (AP)—Soulful songstress Adele capped a momentous year of Grammy Awards triumph and medical woes with a double win at the U.K.'s Brit music awards Tuesday, taking prizes for album of the year and best British female solo artist.

Teen-friendly English troubadour Ed Sheeran won two trophies, including British male solo artist, at an energetic ceremony in London.

It has been a dramatic year for the down-to-earth north London diva Adele, who based her chart-topping songs of heartbreak on a rocky relationship.

Her sophomore album "21" won six Grammys last week and has sold more than 6 million copies in the United States alone. But Adele also had to undergo vocal cord surgery in November to fix a potentially career-threatening throat condition.

She delivered a powerhouse performance of her single "Rolling in the Deep" to thousands of fans and industry insiders at London's O2 arena.

"It's been an amazing year," Adele said as she received the female artist statuette from petite pop star Kylie Minogue.

"I feel like a drag queen next to you," joked the winner, who wore a sleek black Burberry gown but towered over Minogue. She thanked her record company "for letting me be the kind of artist I want to be."

The 23-year-old lost out on the

Idol's Adam Lambert to sing with rock band Queen

LONDON (AP)—Adam Lambert has nabbed his dream gig: Singing vocals for the iconic British band Queen as they headline the second day of the U.K. rock festival Sonisphere 2012.

The former "American Idol" singer-songwriter will step into the late Freddie Mercury's shoes for the band's July 7 set at Knebworth Park in Stevenage, north of London.

Queen's Brian May and Roger Taylor confirmed the one-time collaboration Tuesday with Lambert, 30, a runner-up in season eight of the popular American TV song competition.

The Sonisphere show marks the third time Lambert has sung with

"What I do, because I get chilly, I like to wear long johns. The full one with the trap door in the back," said a joking George Clooney, a double nominee for his leading role in "The Descendants" and his adapted screenplay for "The Ides of March."

Nominated "Descendants" director Alexander Payne declined to describe his planned underwear, so Clooney spoke for him.

"Garanimals," he said, referring to the children's clothing brand. "Underoos." Octavia Spencer, supporting actress nominee for "The Help," will not be repeating the triple-Spanx approach she took at the Golden Globes.

"I want to be comfortable and look good and have fun," she said. "So I'm just going to do the normal one here, one there. (Laughs.) Here a Spank, there a Spank, everywhere a Spank-Spank."

British single prize to boy band One Direction's "What Makes You Beautiful," but took the coveted album of the year award for "21." The statue was presented by singer George Michael, returning to the stage after suffering life-threatening pneumonia in December.

The ceremony also included tributes to two departed divas, Whitney Houston and Amy Winehouse.

Tousle-haired singer-songwriter Sheeran won prizes for solo artist and British breakthrough act.

The red-headed 21-year-old has been panned as bland by some critics, but has amassed legions of young fans through online releases and a relentless calendar of shows.

Sheeran thanked his manager for transforming a "spotty, chubby ginger teenager" into a Brit-winner.

Long derided as dull, the Brits have become a lively celebration of U.K. music and style—and this year's awards come with British music riding high around the world.

"I'm so, so proud to be British and to be flying our flag," said Adele, who has the century's best-selling album so far.

Tuesday's event—which kicked off with Coldplay performing "Charlie Brown" and included live turns from Sheeran, Florence and the Machine, Noel Gallagher, Bruno Mars and Rihanna—brought out a host of stars who blended rock 'n' roll attitude and fashion finery.

Blur frontman Damon Albarn



Adele reacts after winning the award for best British Female Solo Artist during the Brit Awards 2012 at the O2 Arena in London, Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2012.

dressed down for the red carpet in jeans and a flat cap, and former Oasis guitarist Noel Gallagher wore a leather jacket. But others struck a snazzier note. Actor Ray Winstone arrived in a pinstriped three-piece suit, complete with watch chain.

Style standouts included Minogue, in a strapless sky blue dress; plump-lipped Internet sensation Lana Del Ray, wearing a floor-length red gown; and Florence and the Machine's Florence Welch, in a lacy peach dress by Sarah Burton of Alexander McQueen.

The four original members—Albarn, Graham Coxon, Alex James and Dave Rowntree—performed together for the first time since a series of concerts in 2009, offering versions of 1990s hits including "Girls & Boys" and "Parklife."

Most of the awards are chosen by more than 1,000 musicians, critics and record industry figures, with several decided by public vote.

Coldplay won their fourth best British group trophy, while Foo Fighters were voted best international group.

Bruno Mars took the prize for international male solo artist, and Rihanna won the international female prize for a second year.

The Barbadian singer, who has often been in the news for non-musical reasons since her then-boyfriend Chris Brown attacked her at a pre-Grammy Awards party in 2009, thanked her fans.

"At times when I feel misunderstood, my fans always remind me that it's OK to be myself," she said.

Lana Del Rey appeared moved to be named international breakthrough act.

"This award means much more to me than you know," said the singer, who has gone from Internet-fueled buzz to backlash in record time after a disastrous performance last month on "Saturday Night Live."

Britpop icons Blur were received a special prize for their contribution to music.

The four original members—Albarn, Graham Coxon, Alex James and Dave Rowntree—performed together for the first time since a series of concerts in 2009, offering versions of 1990s hits including "Girls & Boys" and "Parklife."

Most of the awards are chosen by more than 1,000 musicians, critics and record industry figures, with several decided by public vote.

Couple can't come to terms over bathroom battleground

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My otherwise loving, honest, generous, kind and attentive husband of 10 years feels it's his right to walk into the bathroom whenever he wants, even when I'm in there. He says it's coincidence, but I think he does it intentionally. We don't have locks—or even doors—to shut our master bathroom. We do have other bathrooms in the house.

I have asked him repeatedly not to come in or to make some noise so I know he's coming. He says he "forgets." If I'm in the shower or bent over with my head upside down blow-drying my hair and turn around or look up and see another person, I get startled. My adrenaline pumps and I end up yelling at him.

I'd prefer to get clean and pretty in peace. My husband thinks I'm overreacting. Am I?

BOTHERED IN THE BATHROOM

DEAR BOTHERED: Feeling as strongly as you do, it's surprising that you would move into a house in which the master bedroom and bath are set up this way. And yes, I do think you're overreacting.

However, you have a couple of options: The first would be for you to get clean and pretty in one of the other bathrooms. The second would be to start a remodeling project and have a door (or doors) to your master bath installed so your husband can knock before entering.



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am married to a wonderful and unique man. Despite his privileged upbringing he is very down-to-earth. His parents' affluence afforded him many opportunities and still does. Unfortunately, my in-laws are snobbish, self-absorbed and competitive. They are critical of everyone—especially their grown son. They put him and each other down constantly. They cause scenes and can't enjoy life.

My husband is trying to be patient because he knows his parents aren't going to change at their age. But they consume so much of our energy with their constant dramatic highs and lows. Any advice for dealing with drama queens (and kings)? They do love us and can be considerate.

LIVING IN THE REAL WORLD IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR REAL: It may help you and your husband to understand that people who act the way your in-laws do are usually insecure on some basic level. They put others down to inflate their egos and reassure themselves that they're "OK" by magnifying (or inventing) flaws in others. When your in-laws start to criticize, be pleasant and make a point of saying something positive about their target. It will short-circuit the rant.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 40-year-old working mother raising a daughter who is the joy of my life. Once in a great while I'll accept an invitation to go on a date and hire a baby sitter to watch my daughter.

My question is, who should pay for the sitter? The man who asked me out or should I? I have yet to have a suitor offer to pay. Is that just the way it is, or are these men just cheap?

MOM ON A BUDGET

DEAR MOM: Paying for your daughter's sitter is YOUR responsibility. When you become involved in a steady relationship and the cost of a sitter becomes a financial burden, discuss it then with your boyfriend, who should be willing to share some of the cost.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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the landmark band, following an eight-minute set at the MTV Europe Awards in November to celebrate Queen's Global Icon Award, and a 2009 performance of "We Are the Champions" on "American Idol."

"It's great, they are the coolest guys, they are so down-to-earth," Lambert told The Associated Press in a recent interview in London.

"They are very sweet and just to be up there doing this music is such an honor. Freddie Mercury was a hero to me and his voice, his song writing and being gay, the whole package is amazing," the American singer said.

Mercury's final concert with Queen also took place at Knebworth Park in Stevenage, north of London.

A new single from Lambert's highly anticipated second album "Trespassing"—"Better Than I Know Myself"—is out now in the U.S. and being released next month in Britain.

worth in August 1986. But Lambert, who is also gay and theatrical, insisted he was not trying to take Mercury's place.

"I in no way am trying to copy or mimic or replace Freddie or do what he did, that would be insulting to his memory and to the fans that hold him in such high regard," Lambert said. "I just am paying tribute. I am excited to sing the songs that he wrote and to try to give them some sort of flair that he would appreciate."

A new single from Lambert's highly anticipated second album "Trespassing"—"Better Than I Know Myself"—is out now in the U.S. and being released next month in Britain.

This was how he began it: Obama said sometimes there are downsides to being the president. You can't just go for a walk, for example.

And then there are the times that more than make up for all those frustrations, he said, like Tuesday night, when Jagger, King, Jeff Beck and other musical giants came by the house to sing the blues.

The surprise performance by Obama came at the end of the playlist when the blues all-stars of the past, present and future—and the president himself.

"Come on, baby don't you want to go," the president sang out twice, handing off the mic to B.B. King momentarily, and then

as "Underworld," was nominated for "The Angel Esmeralda."

Other finalists announced Tuesday were Russell Banks for "Lost Memory of Skin," Steve Millhauser

Obama joins Jagger, B.B. King, to belt out blues

ble was singing "Sweet Home Chicago," the blues anthem of Obama's home town.

Buddy Guy prodded the president, saying he'd heard that the president sang part of an Al Green tune recently, and adding, "You gotta keep it up."

Then Jagger handed over the mic, and Obama seemed compelled to comply.

"Come on, baby don't you want to go," the president sang out twice, handing off the mic to B.B. King momentarily, and then

taking it back to tack on "Sweet Home Chicago" at the end.

That was how Obama ended the night.

This was how he began it: Obama said sometimes there are downsides to being the president. You can't just go for a walk, for example.

And then there are the times that more than make up for all those frustrations, he said, like Tuesday night, when Jagger, King, Jeff Beck and other musical giants came by the house to sing the blues.

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Don DeLillo a PEN/Faulkner finalist

NEW YORK (AP)—Don DeLillo's first book of short stories is a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner award for fiction.

DeLillo, known for such novels

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

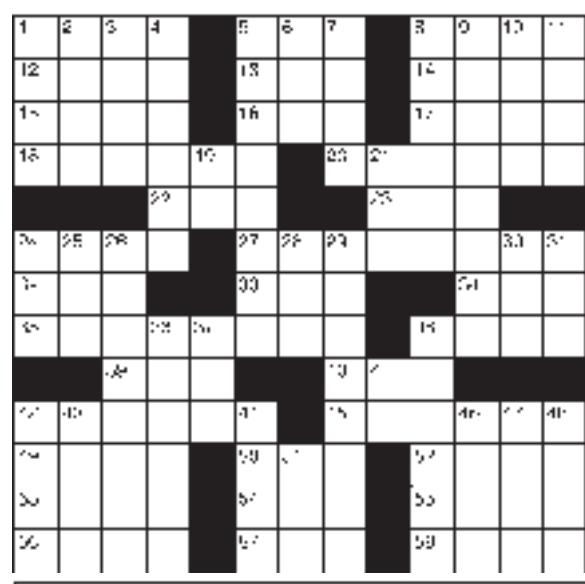
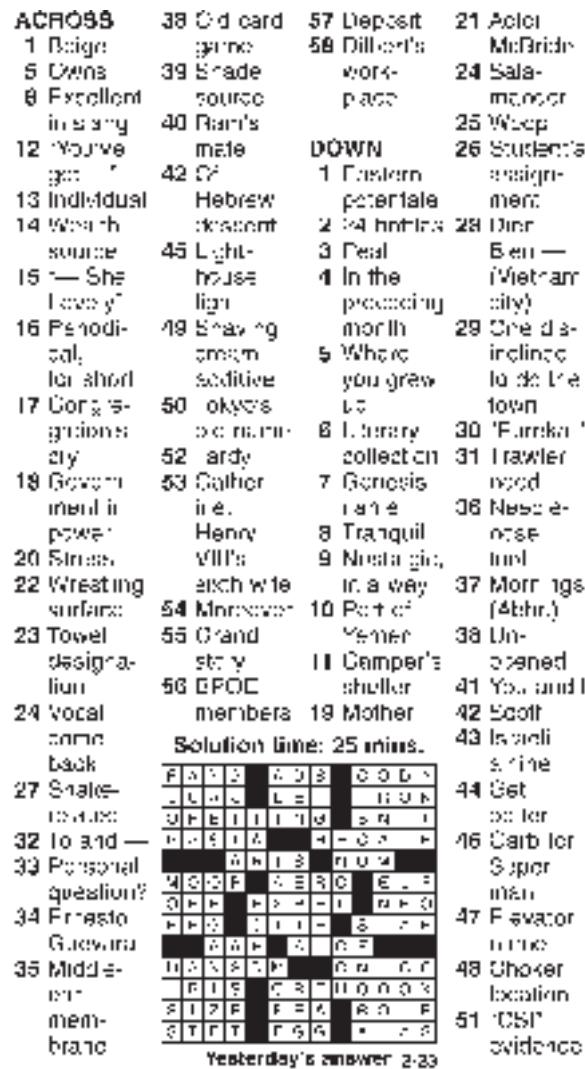
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By Eugene Sheffer



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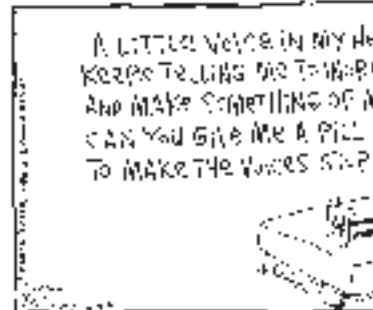
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By Glenn McCoy



CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dakota Fanning, 18; Emily Blunt, 29; Kristin Davis, 47; Peter Fonda, 72.

Happy Birthday: Emotions will take over, scattering your energy and inviting battles that slow you down. Pay attention to what is going on around you and who is influencing your life so you can strategize to counteract any situation that doesn't fit your schedule or plans. Be aware of what partners offer and expect. Your numbers are 9, 16, 22, 27, 33, 38, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Concentrate on you for a change. Do something that will make you feel good, look good and bring good results. Re-evaluate your relationships with people you deal with daily to find ways to improve or discontinue each connection. ☀☀

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can only do so much. Find ways to restore something that has meaning to you. Whether it's a relationship, a group affiliation or even a plan that has taken a wrong turn, you can make a difference with positive reforms. ☀☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll face confusion, dishonesty and poor advice if you listen to someone who is jealous of you. Do your best to remain positive and to strive for success. Your ability to stay on course and reach your destination will impress the right people. ☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Discussing your plans with someone you respect will result in suggestions that fit your budget and your emotional, mental and physi-

cal comfort zones. A unique offer from someone special will fill in whatever is missing from your plans. ☀☀☀

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Socializing and getting to know new acquaintances should be your intent, but that doesn't mean you should pick up the tab, overspend, overindulge or overdo in an attempt to win popularity. Strive for equality, not ownership. ☀☀

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Travel or sign up for a seminar or conference that interests you. Getting involved in activities that are challenging can take your mind off your problems, easing your stress and helping you come to terms with what you must do. ☀☀

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The more time you spend with colleagues, clients or classmates, the better. Take whatever opportunity you get to discuss what's required of you to ensure that you are on the right track and that you don't let anyone down, including yourself. ☀☀

TAURUS (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make overdue alterations to your living quarters and you will be able to start a new hobby. A creative outlet will give you plenty to talk about and push you in a social direction that will bring you in contact with like-minded people. ☀☀

SCORPIO (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Choose your words carefully. Take action rather than discussing your plans. Someone is sure to disagree with what you want to do and make your life difficult should you try

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Choose your words carefully. Take action rather than discussing your plans. Someone is sure to disagree with what you want to do and make your life difficult should you try

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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to pursue your dreams. Love is on the rise. ☀

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look at your past and consider the choices you made. You will come up with a good solution that will enable you to retrieve what you left behind and rid yourself of the things you still have but no longer need. ☀☀

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Do what you can to help others, but don't go into debt doing so. A change that someone from your past makes will make an impression on you that helps you move in a new direction as well. A partnership can be beneficial. ☀☀

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Sensitive emotional issues must be handled carefully. Much can be accomplished if you are reasonable. An unusual suggestion will help with regard to how you earn your living. Understanding and patience will be necessary. ☀☀

Birthday Baby: You visualize and take action. You gravitate to the unusual.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★ ★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



WORDSEARCH

HOW TO PLAY: Place the letters in the grid. If a word is found horizontally, it must be read from left to right. If it is found vertically, it must be read from top to bottom. If it is diagonal, it must be read from bottom-left to top-right. If it is diagonal, it must be read from bottom-left to top-right.

SOLUTION

SOLUTION



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JVA No. 12-006

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Closing Date: Monday, February 27, 2012

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Contract: Not contracted.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2012

Opening date: February 23, 2012 Closing date: March 8, 2012

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancy:

(1) Staff Engineer (Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. For Rota vacancy, applications may be picked up at the CPA's Administration Office of the Rota International Airport; and for Tinian's vacancy, applications may be picked up at CPA's Administration Office of the Tinian International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than 4:30 p.m., March 8, 2012.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing. For more information, please contact Ms. Addy C. Mahahane by email at acmanahane@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

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/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Heat streak at 7 after beating Kings, 120-108



MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade had 30 points and 10 assists, Mario Chalmers and Chris Bosh each scored 20 points and the NBA-leading Miami Heat stretched their winning streak to seven games with a 120-108 win over the Sacramento Kings on Tuesday night.

LeBron James scored 18 points, Norris Cole had 12 and Udonis Haslem added 10 for Miami (26-7), which has won each of its games during this streak by at least 12 points. Wade shot 11 for 16, the 11th straight game he's shot at least 50 percent, matching his career best in that department. He also had a run of 11 such games in his rookie season.

Isaiah Thomas scored 20 of his 24 points in the third quarter for Sacramento, which dropped its sixth straight. Marcus Thornton scored 23, Tyreke Evans finished with 21 points and 10 assists, and Jason Thompson had 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Kings.

Next up for Miami: The New York Knicks and Jeremy Lin come to town Thursday.

The Kings were without guard John Salmons, a late scratch with a sore right hip.

Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said he didn't expect Sacramento to come out and play like a team with one of the NBA's worst records, and he was right. Thompson had 10 points and six rebounds in the opening quarter and Evans' buzzer-beating 3-pointer from near midcourt gave Sacramento a 32-26 lead after 12 minutes.

Maybe the biggest surprise of the first half was that it took Miami—a team that had led by 20 points at some time in each of its six previous outings, but never enjoyed better than an 18-point margin Tuesday—nearly a full hour after tipoff to get the highlight reels cranking.

James blocked a drive by Thomas, the Heat controlled the rebound, and took off running. James got the ball to Wade, who leaped, stayed airborne long enough to draw contact from Cousins and then made an acrobatic layup while falling to the floor. The three-point play put Miami ahead 49-47 and the Heat kept the lead—such as it was—the rest of the half.

Another spectacular James-to-Wade connection helped.

Wade forced Donte Greene into a miss, and Francisco Garcia grabbed the rebound and tried to lay the ball in, all in the same motion. James blocked Garcia's shot—the Kings wanted goaltending—and moments later threw a 70-foot chest pass to Wade for an alley-oop layup at the other



AP Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade (3) goes to the basket against the Sacramento Kings in the first half of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2012.

end, part of a late mini-flurry that sent Miami into halftime leading 57-53.

The Heat kept the lead for the entirety of the third quarter, despite Thomas' best efforts.

Thomas' 20 points came in a 10-minute span of that quarter, a 5-for-6 effort from 3-point range and 5-for-5 from the foul line, the last three there coming when he was fouled by Cole while trying about a 25-footer in the final seconds of the third and getting Sacramento to 93-88.

That's about when Miami decided enough was enough.

A 15-5 run, mostly from the Heat reserves, provided the long awaited breathing room. Cole had four points and an assist in the early stages, and after Mike Miller missed a 3-pointer, Haslem capped the flurry with a one-handed putback dunk that sent Wade running about 15 feet onto the court at the other end in celebration.

Blazers 137, Spurs 97

In Portland, Oregon, the Portland Trail Blazers capitalized on San Antonio's decision to rest Tim Duncan and Tony Parker by routing the NBA Southwest Division-leading Spurs.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 21 points and Jamal Crawford scored 20 points, shooting 5 for 7 on 3-pointers, for the Blazers, who led by as many as 48 points and rested all their starters for most of the fourth quarter.

Kawhi Leonard had 24 points and 10 rebounds for San Antonio, who had come in with 11 straight victories, and eight in a row on the road.

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said before the game that he was resting Parker and Duncan because the Spurs were playing three games in four nights. Parker is averaging 19.5 points per game, while Duncan's averaging 19.9 points and 8.6 rebounds.

Grizzlies 89, 76ers 76

In Memphis, the hosts moved to a season-best four games above .500 by beating Atlantic division leader Philadelphia.

Marc Gasol had 15 points and 14 rebounds—finishing three assists shy of a triple double—and Rudy Gay scored 14 points for the Grizzlies.

True Holiday scored 22 points—none in the fourth—for the Sixers, who shot just 37 percent while losing their fourth straight.

Pacers 117, Hornets 108, OT

In Indianapolis, Roy Hibbert had a career-high 30 points and 13 rebounds to lead Indiana past New Orleans in overtime.

Paul George scored 20 points for the Pacers, who went on a 10-0 run in overtime to notch a third straight win.

Trevor Ariza scored 21 points to lead the Hornets, who will conclude a stretch of three games in three days—all on the road—on Wednesday at Cleveland.

Cavaliers 101, Pistons 100

In Cleveland, the hosts roared back from a 17-point deficit to overrun Detroit.

Antawn Jamison scored 32 points for the Cavaliers, who trailed 72-55 late in the third quarter.

Alonzo Gee, who scored 13 points in the fourth quarter, put the Cavaliers ahead for good, 97-95, by rebounding his own miss with a dunk with 25.4 seconds left. Rookie Kyrie Irving, who scored 25 points, and Gee combined for 30 of Cleveland's 35 points in the fourth quarter.

Brandon Knight led the Pistons with 24 points.

Year after trade, Melo's time as Knick falls short

NEW YORK (AP)—Carmelo Anthony briefly had what now belongs to Jeremy Lin.

Madison Square Garden shook when he was announced. Fans lined up to buy his jerseys, chanted his name, delighted in having the New York native back in the city.

The happy homecoming hasn't lasted.

The Knicks are a sub-.500 team in the year since Anthony's celebrated trade from Denver, and the New York Post even wrote Tuesday that the Knicks should try to deal him to the Lakers for Pau Gasol.

Still popular, Anthony is no longer beloved. Fans appreciate his talents but question whether they translate to victories, writing on Twitter they feared he'd mess things up once he returned from injury to play with Lin.

Anthony tried to laugh that off, but the truth is he craves the popularity of Lin, an underdog success story whom Anthony compared to Rudy.

"I don't see why fans (would) not like me. I don't say I wouldn't care, I don't care, because I do care if fans like me or not. But at the end of the day I'm here to do one thing and that's to win basketball games," he said last week. "If people don't like it, then they don't like it. I move on, I go on."

The problem for Anthony is he isn't winning enough games.

The Knicks were 14-14 after acquiring him on Feb. 22, 2011, after going 28-26 before his arrival.

Melo's time as Knick falls short

They are 16-17 this season, but 6-4 without Anthony.

Meanwhile, Lin is the winner, leading the Knicks to an 8-2 record since earning his first meaningful minutes in a victory over the Nets on Feb. 4. Anthony strained his right groin two nights later and missed the next seven games while the offense emerged from what had been a season-long funk.

The better they looked without Anthony, the more people speculated that Anthony, despite being the Knicks' leading scorer, had been the problem all along.

One person tweeted on Feb. 12 that he wondered if Anthony "knows or cares how terrified Knicks fans are about his return."

Yes, Anthony was aware. And yes, turns out they had reason to worry.

The Knicks lost 100-92 to New Jersey on Monday, as a rusty Anthony shot only 4 for 11 from the field for 11 points. He said afterward he was trying to play as the Knicks did during the previous two weeks and reiterated his belief in Lin's ability to run the team.

"I want Jeremy to have the ball. Hands down. I want him to create for me. I want him to create for Amare (Stoudemire). I want him to create for everybody and still be as aggressive as he's been over the past two weeks. I want that," Anthony said.

"There's going to be times I have the ball during the pick-and-roll situations, being a distribu-

tor, trying to be aggressive. But for the most part, I want Jeremy having the ball in his hands."

Anthony was greeted with a loud cheer Monday, maybe even louder than Lin's. He was voted by fans to start the All-Star game—though the TNT analysts announcing the picks unanimously said he was undeserving—so he's still got a huge following. He thanked his fans Tuesday with a message on Twitter.

"Big shout to all my fans and the (Knicks) fans as well," he wrote. "It's been 1yr. Wow!!!!!!"

Still, it's fallen short of hopes.

He wore a huge grin throughout his Feb. 23 debut Milwaukee, when the words "I was born in Brooklyn, New York" played across the overhead video board to a raucous ovation before he scored 27 points in a victory. He doesn't flash it nearly as often now in a frustrating season in which he's battled an assortment of injuries.

The Knicks paid an enormous price to get Anthony, surrendering starters Danilo Gallinari, Raymond Felton, Timofey Mozgov and top reserve Wilson Chandler, and that's created expectations that are nearly impossible to meet. He could have waited and joined the Knicks as a free agent with their core intact, and those holding that against him are likely the ones behind the occasional groaning at the Garden when Anthony launches an ill-advised shot.

Lin, on the other hand, was a simple waiver pickup who had already been cut twice this sea-

son, the type of guy that's easy to love.

The undrafted Harvard guard has downplayed concerns of his ability to play with Anthony, noting Monday was also the debut of Baron Davis and the second game with J.R. Smith.

"We're not in panic mode, because it doesn't just work where all of sudden people show up and you have great chemistry," Lin said. "So we're going to have to work through some struggles, so as long as we're all committed and buying in, we'll be fine."

D'Antoni and Stoudemire have also used the "buying in" term, and though nobody has ever said so, the hunch is always that they're talking specifically about Anthony. D'Antoni's offense flows best with quick ball movement and unselfish play, and Anthony's preference has also been to isolate and hold the ball before trying to take his man 1-on-1.

Anthony has had moments of brilliance with the Knicks, such as his 42-point, 17-rebound Game 2 performance against Boston in the playoffs. His 20 game-winning or tying baskets with under 10 seconds left are second among active players to Kobe Bryant's 22, so the Knicks need him on the floor no matter what this season's results have been.

Extra practice time around the All-Star break should allow Lin and Anthony to develop cohesion, and eventually New York's two most popular players might be just as productive.

Maybe Melo can turn Linsanity into LinAnthony.

Brady Quinn says he's sorry for Tebow comments



DENVER (AP)—Brady Quinn is apologizing to Tim Tebow for unflattering comments Quinn made about the Denver Broncos' starting quarterback in a GQ article.

The article on Tebowmania was written by Michael Silver and titled "The year of Magical Stinkin: An Oral History of Tebow Time."

In it, Quinn was quoted as saying, "We've had a lot of, I guess, luck, to put it simply." He also said he felt the fans were the reason Tebow leapfrogged him on the depth chart when supplanting Kyle Orton as the starter after a 1-4 start.

"I felt like the fans had a lot to do with that," Quinn said in the article. "Just 'cause they were chanting his name. There was a big calling for him. No, I don't have any billboards. That would have been nice."

Quinn also said in the article that the way Tebow expresses his faith doesn't "seem very humble to me." Both men are Christians.

Quinn took to Twitter after the article's release Tuesday, saying the comments attributed to him did not reflect his opinion of Tebow.

Tebow "deserves a lot of credit for our success and I'm happy for him and what he accomplished. Most importantly, he is a great teammate," Quinn wrote.

Quinn said he's reached out to Tebow directly "to clear this up," adding, "I apologize to anyone who feels I was trying to take anything away from our team's or Tim's success this season."

Quinn is an unrestricted free agent whom the Broncos are considering bringing back to Denver.

He was Orton's primary backup when the season started but when Orton struggled, the Broncos' brain trust wanted to see what they had in Tebow, a 2010 first-round draft pick who made more than \$7 million last season, including a big bonus that was paid before the season.

Tebow won seven of his first eight starts and produced a series of stirring fourth-quarter comebacks that made up for his poor passing and messy mechanics.

With Tebow at quarterback, the Broncos reached the playoffs for the first time since 2005, and they won their first game, against Pittsburgh, when Tebow connected with Demaryius Thomas on an electrifying 80-yard touchdown pass on the first play of overtime.



In this Dec. 5, 2010, file photo, Denver Broncos quarterbacks Brady Quinn (9) and Tim Tebow (15) chat before an NFL football game against the Kansas City Chiefs at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Mo. AP

Thomas chimed into the latest Tebow rift on Tuesday, tweeting, "I'm tired of ppl talking about my QB.. If u ask me there's no such thing as luck.. It's hard work and determination.. That's all..."

After the Broncos lost at New England in the divisional round, football chief John Elway declared Tebow the starter heading into training camp this summer but stopped short of saying the third-year pro had won the job for opening day next season.

The Broncos haven't ruled out bringing back Quinn, who didn't take a single snap in his two

seasons in Denver after being acquired from Cleveland in the trade for Peyton Hillis in 2010.

Besides Tebow, the only other quarterback under contract for next season is Adam Weber, who spent last season on the Broncos' practice squad.

The Broncos will try to add a couple of quarterbacks through free agency and the draft.

Elway, a two-time Super Bowl winner and Hall of Famer who rejoined the franchise last year, has said Tebow must morph into more of a pocket passer to succeed long-term in the NFL.

Coach John Fox reintroduced the option offense to the league last year and Tebow piled up yards on the ground, but he completed less than half his passes in both the regular season and the playoffs.

Tebow has already spent time working on his throwing motion and mechanics with UCLA offensive coordinator Noel Mazzone in Los Angeles this month. Mazzone also helped him work on his fundamentals coming out of Florida, where he was a three-time All-America, a two-time national champion and a Heisman Trophy winner.

Cubs send pitcher to Red Sox as comp for Epstein



FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP)—Theo Epstein's worth to the Boston Red

Sox was easy to gauge. A quick glance at the two World Series trophies at Fenway Park settles that.

Determining his value to the Chicago Cubs, another title-starved franchise desperately hoping to be saved by the Boy Wonder, turned out to be a much more complicated issue. Turns out the architect of a two-time champion who restored pride to a franchise that had long been known for choking in the biggest moments was worth a 26-year-old reliever and a player to be named later.

The two teams finally announced a deal Tuesday that settles a four-month dispute over what Boston should get as compensation when Epstein left for Chicago. The Cubs sent right-handed reliever Chris Carpenter and a player to be named later to the Red Sox for a player to be named later—and Epstein.

"I guess my name will go down in history," Carpenter said.

After the Red Sox blew a nine-game lead in the AL East by going 7-20 in the final month of last season, Epstein started to look for a new challenge. He became Chicago's president of baseball operations and got a five-year, \$18.5 million deal in October.

But completing the deal proved to be much more than a formality as both sides grappled with comparing the skill set of

an executive on the suite level with what a player brings on the diamond. The teams were not able to agree on compensation and wound up submitting arguments to Commissioner Bud Selig.

"I think it took this long because it was a unique circumstance," said Red Sox GM Ben Cherington, who served under Epstein before succeeding him. "We talk to teams all the time about trades and it's player-for-player and it's ... easier to assign value and figure out what's fair, what's not fair. In this case it was just tougher because it involved not just an executive but a friend."

It had to make for awkward conversations. Would Cherington throw out a name, only to have Epstein say, 'No, I'm not worth that much'?

"It was just difficult because these things don't normally happen," Cherington said with a chuckle. "It's hard to figure out what was appropriate. In the end both teams compromised and we feel really good about the guy we're getting and we're happy it was resolved and we were able to resolve it between the teams without the commissioner getting involved."

For one deal, at least, Epstein went from talent evaluator to the actual talent being acquired.

"I am relieved that this process is over and particularly pleased that the teams were able to reach agreement on their own without intervention from MLB," he said in a statement released by the

team. "I truly hope and believe that this resolution will benefit both clubs, as well as Chris, who is an extremely talented reliever joining a great organization at a time when there's some opportunity in the major league bullpen."

Selig said he was glad he didn't have to get involved.

"I am pleased that the Cubs and the Red Sox have resolved this matter," Selig said in a statement. "It has always been my preference that Clubs resolve matters like this amongst themselves, as they understand their unique circumstances better than anyone else could. Though the matter required time, both clubs demonstrated professionalism throughout their discussions, and I appreciate their persistence in finding common ground."

Carpenter was a third-round draft pick by the Cubs in 2008. He made 42 relief appearances between Double-A Tennessee, Triple-A Iowa and the Cubs. He spent four years in the minors before seeing his first major league action last season, when he posted no record and a 2.79 ERA in 10 appearances.

"If you're going to pick two teams to play for, why not the Cubs and the Red Sox?" Carpenter said. "You can't complain about that."

The Red Sox bullpen is in a state of flux and it's one of new manager Bobby Valentine's chief concerns this spring. Andrew Bailey was acquired from Oakland in December to replace closer Jonathan

MLB BRIEFS

Raul Ibanez and Yankees finalize \$1.1M contract

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Raul Ibanez and the New York Yankees have finalized a \$1.1 million, one-year contract. The deal was announced Tuesday, one day after the sides reached agreement. It includes \$2.9 million in performance bonuses. Ibanez is a 39-year-old outfielder who played with Philadelphia the previous three seasons and hit .245 last year with 20 homers and 84 RBIs. He is expected to become the Yankees' main designated hitter against right-handed starters. In addition, the Yankees reached a preliminary agreement on a \$900,000, one-year contract with backup infielder Eric Chavez, who hit .263 with two homers and 26 RBIs last year for New York. The six-time Gold Glove winner broke a bone in his left foot on May 5 after just 17 games and didn't return until July 26. His deal is subject to a physical.

La Russa in talks to work for MLB

LAKELAND, Fla. (AP)—Tony La Russa says he's talked to Commissioner Bud Selig about working for Major League Baseball in some capacity. La Russa, who retired as a manager after guiding the St. Louis Cardinals to the World Series title last year, was visiting with the Detroit Tigers at spring training Tuesday. La Russa is good friends with Tigers manager Jim Leyland and has a longstanding relationship with general manager Dave Dombrowski. La Russa was vague when talking about what he might do for MLB but said he would not be taking Joe Torre's old job as executive vice president of baseball operations. He said he'd be working with Selig but he's "not sure how official the commissioner wants to make it."

Papelbon and setup man Daniel Bard has been moved to the starting rotation. The Red Sox have 36 pitchers in camp, hoping that the numbers will help them bolster the depth of the relief corps.

The Cubs, meanwhile, can finally close the book on their biggest acquisition in years.

"Now we can just move forward with the spring without worrying about the compensation," Cubs GM Jed Hoyer said in Mesa, Ariz., at Chicago's spring training complex. "Chris is a

very good reliever. He's a difficult guy to lose. I think we all realized we were going to lose something of significant value when Theo came over here, and this doesn't change that."

"I hope Chris has a lot of success over there. Obviously the Cubs are really excited about the new management team with Theo leading it, so there was a price to be paid for that."

As for the players to be named later, Hoyer called it a "procedural" thing to meet MLB transaction rules.

Four teams kick off GCDC U17 girls caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The Garapan Community Development Center's 2012 U17 Girls Basketball

League kicked off its U17 Girls Basketball League with four teams last Friday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The league aims to improve the overall development of female youth players, thus participants split up into different teams every Friday night for a

round of exhibition matches starting at 5:30pm; weather permitting.

Last week, the Lady Manta Rays and Lady Dolphins triumphed over separate opponents.

The Lady Rays stunned the Lady Barracudas, 24-18, in the curtain raiser, after which the Lady Dolphins escaped the Lady Sharks, 25-24, in the late tiff.

The Lady Barracudas bit first in the opening 16 minutes of Game 1 and assumed an 8-6 edge at the half.

Lady Barracudas' Chevy

Alipio and Lady Rays' Denise Samson led their teams with four points apiece in the frame.

Samson carried her sterling play into second half and lit up the scoreboard with nine more points that helped lift the Lady Rays past to victory. Eight clutch points were also provided by her teammate Marlene Lumabi.

Samson's 13 points led the field, as Lady Barracudas' Alipio was held to four points in the final period.

In Game 2, the Lady Dolphins panned out an early 13-11 advantage at halftime off of seven

points from Glorily Williams.

Then in the payoff period the Lady Sharks' Melody Johnson caught a whim and led a late rally with nine points, but the Lady Dolphins spread the ball around well enough to fend off the comeback.

Williams and Johnson led their respective squads with nine points apiece in the game.

The league will run through early April, after which the CNMI Women's Association will co-sponsor a finale tournament in May to help celebrate the GCDC's first anniversary;

trophies and prizes will be awarded, accordingly.

Starting this Friday organizers will divide the players into two fields—advanced and developmental.

The teams will compete against one another and assemble different teams every week within their respective pools. Then after completion of the regular season the fields will rejoin for the post-season tournament.

Team captains will be designated to pick the playoff teams, which will stay together for the remainder of the tournament.

Players of all skill levels are still welcome to come out and

participate; the number of teams may be expanded depending on the turnout.

First Game

Lady Rays 24 – Samson 13, Lumabi 8, Francisco 2, Flores 1.

Lady Barracudas 18 – Alipio 8, Echavez 6, Gatchalian 2, Reyes 2/

Scoring by halves: 6-8, 24-18.

Second Game

Lady Dolphins 25 – Williams 9, Abrams 4, Jeraly Castillo 4, Rios 4, Lebria 2.

Sharks 24 – Johnson 9, Mendoza 5, Gozon 3, Iwasaki 3, Alegre 2, Jerald Castillo 2.

Scoring by halves: 13-11, 25-24.

CNMI

From Page 28

six teams were comprised of Guam players.

Lizama and Yamada bumped off Alex McCaroll and Kristina Folta in the second round, 21-13, and then advanced past Kendra Bryd and Gemma Datin, 21-15, to earn a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals.

McCaroll and Folta battled back through three lower bracket matches for a second chance against their northern rivals, but were no match and eventually

fell, 21-16.

In addition, Saipan's Celine Camacho and Josie Santos took fourth place, while Abigail Hudkins and Kristle Obbae brought up the rear.

The men's field split into two pools of six teams on Saturday to determine the bracket rankings for Sunday's elimination matches; the Top 4 finishers received first round byes.

Zak and Zed Zacarias came into Sunday as the top seed and was gifted a second round forfeit victory.

Notably, Team Zacarias lost

its first actual match on Sunday to Nekafies and Mariano, 23-21. However, the latter eventually fell to second-ranked Steven Rect and Luis Mesngon, 21-19, in the semifinals.

Team Zacarias climbed up the lower bracket ladder over Saipan's A.J. Aguilar and Jason Limes, 21-11, and then knocked out fourth placers Peter Aguon and Mark Duenas of Guam, 21-15, to get their first crack at frontrunners Sect and Mesngon.

Although they started slow, Team Zacarias heated up when it counted most and pulled out

the upset, 21-12 and 21-15.

Aguilar and Limes tied Misaaki Cramer and Nicolas Shepherd of Guam for fifth place, while Saipan's Clay McCullough-Stearns and Andy Nutting came into Sunday ranked third, but dropped two out of three matches with the pressure on for a sixth place finish alongside Guam's Kevin Movida and Dan Natividad.

All participants received NMIVA T-shirts.

Notably, there was also a professional exhibition match on Saturday featuring American pro Ty Loomis and

all bagged hits and soon after knocked Lions pitcher Justin Reyes off the mound.

Fielders' Davin Ada singled home a run, while James Aldan brought in two more with a double. The rest came off sketchy pitches; the Lions responded with just one run in the bottom half.

Aldan then hammered a two-RBI triple in the next frame as the Fielders trudged ahead, 11-3, after six and held the Fielders to just two runs in the last frame.

Aldan swung 2-for-2 for four RBIs, two runs, a stolen base, and a base on balls.

Winning pitcher Keoni Kaito pat gave up just three hits, two earned runs, and eight walks in five innings.

BIG LEAGUE

Hustlers 4, Ol'Aces 3

The Hustlers established an early 3-0 lead in the first inning off errors and a pair of hits, including an RBI triple by cleanup man Brian Camacho, who later scored himself off a wild pitch.

Then the count shifted to 3-2 after four innings as the Hustlers were gifted an RBI

walk in the top frame.

However, Ol'Aces fired back to pull within a run in the bottom half off four hits and a sacrifice fly by Harry Nakamura; Felipe Litulumar cranked an RBI single, but the Ol'Aces would leave them loaded.

Notably, Nakamura was called to the mound to start the fourth inning and aside from the shaky start, he escaped the fourth with the bases loaded and went on to retire nine of the next 10 batters he faced, but his teammates came a run shy of forcing extra innings in the final stand.

Hustlers pitcher K.J. Villagomez bagged the decision and gave up two earned runs off four hits with eight strikeouts and three walks in five innings.

Fielders 6, Lions 4

IT&E Fielders managed a slim 4-3 edge after four innings and added two more in the fifth before containing its rivals to just one run in the final two innings.

IT&E broke the ice in the opening frame with two hits, an error, and a wild pitch.

After breaking into the CNMI record books in December last year (400m freestyle/5:43.69), Tammy now has four age group marks to her credit. Her second record was made last month when she tallied 11:49.95 in the 800m freestyle swim and erased the 10-year mark of Johnson (12:22.78/April 28, 2002).

Meanwhile, Ryuto Yanai added another record to his list after completing the 50m butterfly event in 36.48 seconds. Ryuto Yanai's time crushed the 37.36 Lukas Kang submitted on October 15, 2011.

The 8-year-old swimmer's

number of records in his age group is now pegged at five. He broke the U8 100m butterfly mark last month after clocking in at 1:22.17, while his three other records, 50m freestyle (33.85 seconds), 100m freestyle (1:16.11), and 200m freestyle (2:45.35), were posted late last year.

Ryuto Yanai needs to make only one more mark to have the most records in his age group. Kang owns six records in the boys U8 division and he can no longer add more, as he is now competing in the 9 to 10 age group.

clude Friday's professional exhibition duel to showcase the skills of experts from the U.S., Japan, and New Zealand before they get raffled off and be partnered off with some lucky local amateurs.

Then comes the highly anticipated 20th Annual Marianas Cup Pro-Am main event where Saipan and Guam players step up to the challenge against a mixed bag of tough off-island competition; and finally the festival concludes with the 5th Annual Marianas Kids Cup on March 3.

Ol'Aces 5, Hunters 3

The Hunters struck in the first inning with a run off an error, but Ol'Aces countered with two runs in the bottom frame off three hits. Rocco Reyes and Keoni Lizama batted RBI singles each.

The Hunters briefly locked it at 2-2 off another error in the fourth inning, but the Ol'Aces tacked on three more runs in the bottom of the fifth off a triple by Diego Camacho, a sacrifice fly by Lamarc Iguel, and errors.

From there the Ol'Aces limited its opponents to just a run in the bottom half of the inning and held on for the win.

Ol'Aces' pitcher Iguel went the distance and gave up zero earned runs and just three hits with six strikeouts, a walk, and two hit batters. His teammate Lizama batted 2-for-3 with a triple and an RBI.

at the Oleai pitch.

On Feb. 28, the Commonwealth bets will collide against the junior team of Ehime University (Shikoku, Japan) starting at 6pm. Ehime listed 24 players for its junior team and members are in the 18 to 21 age group. The junior team will also duel the Saipan All-Stars in another exhibition game on March 1 at 6pm. Then on March 6, it will be the turn of Ehime's senior squad to square off against the CNMI players with the game also scheduled at 6pm. The visitors' senior team is composed of 14 players in the 22-and-above age group.

Before its three exhibition matches, Ehime players and coaches will first conduct a clinic for U6 to U12 strikers on Feb. 29, from 4:30pm to 5:30pm at the Oleai pitch.

YANAI

From Page 28

Winkfield (37.25 seconds/Feb. 27, 1993).

The older Yanai then surpassed another old record, submitting 1:15.51 in the 100m backstroke race to eclipse the 1:16.35 Joshua Taitano made on May 6, 1994. With his two record-breaking swims, Kaito Yanai now owns four records in the boys 11 to 12 age group. The Tsunami Saipan swimmer also holds the CNMI age group mark in the 100m breaststroke

after clocking in at 1:19.26 on Dec. 3, 2011.

Duplicating Kaito Yanai's feat in last weekend's tournament was Tammy, who set new records in the girls 9 to 10's 50m butterfly and 50m backstroke. Tammy's 37.64 seconds in the 50m butterfly bested the 37.84 Amanda Johnson of Saipan Swim Club posted on March 28, 2002.

Then in the 50m backstroke, the Tsunami Saipan swimmer logged 39.46 seconds, .31 of a second faster than previous record-holder Myana Welch (39.67 seconds/May 5, 2000).

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hibition game will run 15 minutes after the visitors conclude a one-hour clinic for youth players. The Japan Soccer College's clinic will run from 5:15pm to 6:15pm, also at the Oleai pitch, with the event open to U8, U10, and U12 players.

Japan Soccer College is a soccer school based in Niigata. It offers courses for players, coaches, officials, and individuals who want to engage in soccer business. The school has coaches and instructors who are playing for pro team Niigata Albirex, while its students are given chances to compete in the Singapore Professional League.

After the game against Japan Soccer College, three more exhibition matches will be played

2012 White Coconut Tennis Classic

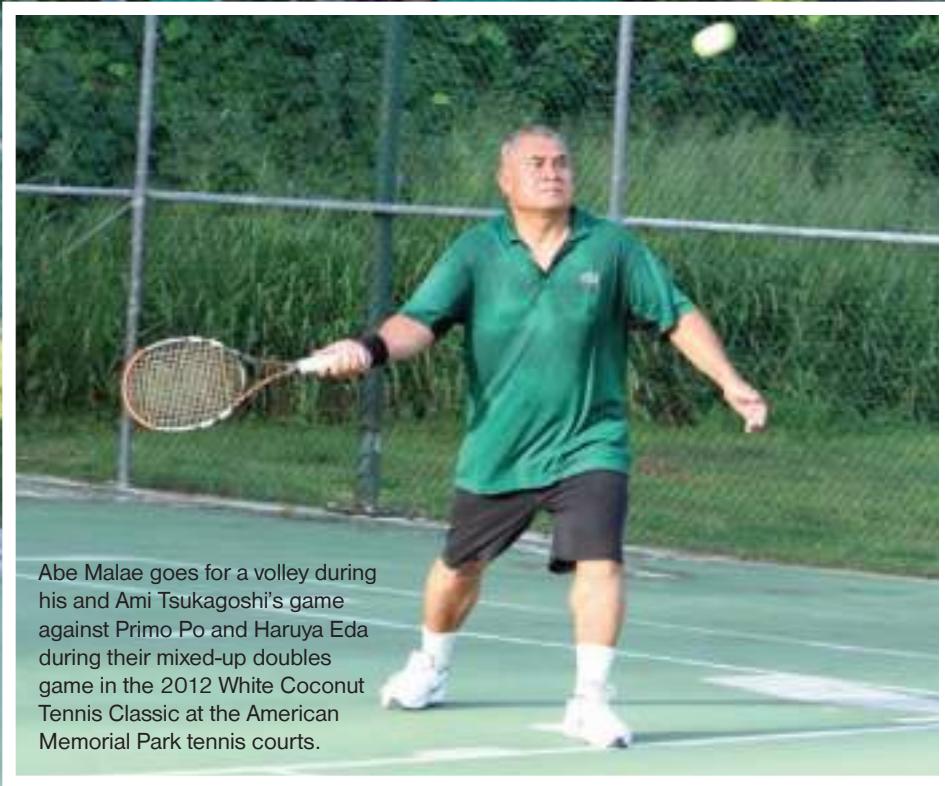
PHOTOS By
ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Jeff Race serves against Bobby Cruz.



Liza Atalig gets ready for a backhand return at the baseline.



Abe Malae goes for a volley during his and Ami Tsukagoshi's game against Primo Po and Haruya Eda during their mixed-up doubles game in the 2012 White Coconut Tennis Classic at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



Robbie Schorr returns to Tony Atalig during their boys U10 title match.



Carl Dela Cruz returns to Seiya Eda.



Tony Atalig serves to Robbie Schorr during their boys U10 title match.



Seiya Eda gets ready to serve against Carl Dela Cruz during their boys U15 title game.



Angelo Jones, left, and Ruth Park exchange hi-fives after scoring a point against Alina Ishikawa and Liza Atalig.



Negahr Rastguiy stretches for a baseline return to Sakiko Eda.

Activity Schedule for February 23, 2012

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| NMBA 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Morning practices) 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM (Evening practices) | 2012 Tan Holdings Intercompany Basketball League 6:15 PM D&Q-CTSI vs. Saipan Grand Hotel 8:15 PM Fiesta Resort & Spa vs. POI-RMS | 2012 Men's B Futsal League 6:30 PM CTSI Puzakals vs. News Makers 7:30 PM Frosted Flakes vs. Shirley's |
|--|---|--|



Heat streak at 7 after beating Kings, 120-108

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Quinn says
he's sorry
for Tebow
comments**

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28 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI lasses win 2012 Marianas Junior Cup



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Toni Yamada, right, dives for a dig as her teammate Charnessa Lizama keeps a close watch during NMIVA's 2012 Marianas Junior Cup beach volleyball tournament held over the weekend on Gun Beach in Tumon, Guam.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Charnessa Lizama and Toni Yamada topped six other women's teams to win the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association's 2012 Marianas Junior Cup beach volleyball tournament held on Gun Beach in Tumon By, Guam this past weekend.

In addition, Saipan's John Nekaifes and Jordan Mariano placed third in the 12-team men's division. Mariano is originally from Saipan, but now resides in Guam.

Going back to Lizama and Yamada, the 1-2-punch has been making a number of



headlines on the local scene as of late, but now has an off-island win under their belts.

The Saipan duo swept Saturday's pool play and earned a first round bye in Sunday's elimination matches. The other

See CNMI on Page 26

**CNMI roster out
for games vs
Japanese teams**

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

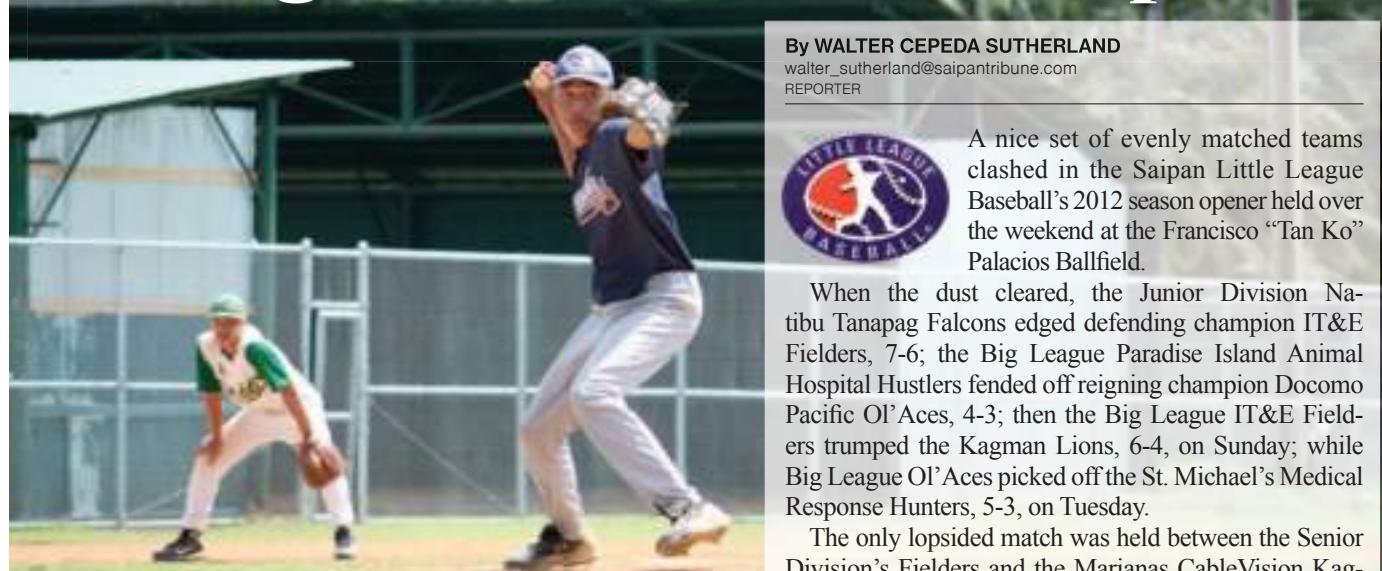
Twenty-five individuals are listed in the group of CNMI players that will challenge three visiting Japanese teams in a series of exhibition games, starting tomorrow night at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

The roster includes Peter Loken, Arkie Reusora, Dale Roberts, Evan Hunsberger, Trey Dunn, Eric Cooke, Adam Walsh, Ruselle Zapanta, Brad Ruszala, Dan Wollak, Dan Westphal (off-island), Chris Nelson, Devin Atalig (injured), Don Cabrera, Daniel Agulto, Raphael Zapanta, Jahn Joyner, Dakota Hall, Kenneth Domingo, Brian Lee, Enrico del Rosario, Peter Houk (off-island), Daniel Stafford (off-island), Steve McKagan, and Johann Noetzel. These strikers are a mix of CNMI Men's National Team members and players from the men's, U15, and U18 leagues.

The group will first play against the Japan Soccer College, beginning at 6:30pm. The starters for tomorrow night's match will be determined after today's practice. The CNMI versus Japan Soccer College ex-

See ROSTER on Page 26

Close games mark season opener



By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



A nice set of evenly matched teams clashed in the Saipan Little League Baseball's 2012 season opener held over the weekend at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

When the dust cleared, the Junior Division Natibu Tanapag Falcons edged defending champion IT&E Fielders, 7-6; the Big League Paradise Island Animal Hospital Hustlers fended off reigning champion Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces, 4-3; then the Big League IT&E Fielders trumped the Kagman Lions, 6-4, on Sunday; while Big League Ol'Aces picked off the St. Michael's Medical Response Hunters, 5-3, on Tuesday.

The only lopsided match was held between the Senior Division's Fielders and the Marianas CableVision Kagman Lions, which the former seized, 17-5, on Saturday.

Monday's games were cancelled due to rain and conflicts with the umpires' schedule. Details of the Seniors

See CLOSE on Page 26

Yanai siblings, Tammy reset records anew

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami
Siblings Kaito and Ryuto Yanai and Miku Tammy returned to the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool for the All Island Invitational 2 last Saturday and crushed more



Kaito Yanai

IT&E Fielders' Nathan Guerrero fires a pitch home in Sunday's Saipan Little League Big Division matchup against the Kagman Lions at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND